

Arafat gets top welcome in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Yasser Arafat, named president of the Palestine state three days ago, arrived Wednesday for a two-day visit and Ethiopian leaders gave him a head of state's welcome. President Mengistu Haile Mariam, members of his cabinet and envoys from Arab and socialist countries were at the airport to welcome the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, who arrived from neighboring Djibouti. Also Wednesday, Arafat was quoted as warning that hit squads have fanned out in a number of European and Arab countries to attempt the assassination of Palestinian leaders. Arafat told the editor in chief of the London-based weekly Al Majlis that the hit squads are of different nationalities, including a Palestinian. "There are three groups, but according to the names available to me only one person involved is a Palestinian and the rest belong to other nationalities," said Arafat. "There have always been such attempts perpetrated by the Israeli intelligence agencies and Arab agents," said Arafat without going into detail. Excerpts from the interview ran in the weekly's Jeddah based, sister English-language newspaper, Arab News.

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King Hussein inaugurates King Abdullah Mosque

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurated the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein in Amman and joined worshippers in Al 'Aqsa prayers.

"I am greatly honoured to open this great mosque named after a great man who devoted his life and his efforts to build this country and serve its people." King Hussein said in an inaugural address at the official opening ceremony.

The King paid tribute to the late King Abdullah, his grandfather and founder of the Kingdom, who laid the ground for the political, constitutional, parliamentary, social and economic life of the country.

"Indeed, the late King Abdullah paved the way for the future generations of this Kingdom to live a decent life and to enjoy security and carry on with the construction and progress that serves the Arab nation as a whole," the King said.

The late King Abdullah has fought hard in defence of the Arab homeland and fell as a martyr while defending the Arab and Islamic nation's rights in the Holy City of Jerusalem where he is buried alongside his father Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali near the Aqsa Mosque," King Hussein added.

He said the late King Abdullah inherited the great mission of the Great Arab Revolt that was led by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali at the turn of this century to lead the Arab nation to freedom and unity.

"The construction of the new mosque in Amman which bears the late King's name is a show of respect and appreciation of his remarkable endeavours and his services to his people," King



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and senior officials perform prayers Wednesday at King Abd-

ullah Mosque after the inauguration ceremony of the mosque (Petra photo)

Hussein pointed out.

King Hussein said he was also delighted to see this great mosque adjoined by an Islamic culture centre which, together with the mosque, forms a complex where religion and culture can be moulded and where faith in God can be strengthened."

King Hussein said on this occasion "Muslims look forward towards the day when the holy sites of Jerusalem are liberated from occupation so that Al Aqsa and the other sacred shrines can remain free and stand out as a symbol of faith for all Muslims on earth."

Addressing the celebration, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat outlined the importance of constructing mosques, saying that they have always been centres for launching Islamic Da'wa, teaching Koranic sciences, Islamic culture and for graduating leaders of the Islamic conquests and Muslim scholars.

Khayyat voiced hope that the new mosque will play its role in enhancing Islamic culture, fulfilling the message of the mosque and delivering the good word and advice, through its mimbar (rostrum), the cultural centre, the Koran house and its library.

Khayyat pointed out that the

idea of setting up this mosque was initiated by King Hussein who allocated a plot of land for its construction in 1974, laid its foundation stone in 1982 and followed up on its construction stages.

He added that the mosque has three doors, which were called the Door of Peace, the Door of Shoura (consultation) and the Door of Mercy, to signal the principles that Islam advocates.

Khayyat noted the efforts made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zai

Ibn Shaker and senior government officials to build this big Islamic edifice.

The mosque has cost approximately JD 5 million, of which JD 3.5 million were spent during the first phase of construction.

Khayyat pointed out that more than 40 engineers and technicians, 20 contractors and 1,000 workers from Jordan, Syria, Morocco and Egypt have carried out the mosque project.

At the end of the celebration King Hussein delivered royal medals to the Ministry of Awqaf secretary general, the executive director of the project and a number of engineers who made significant contributions to the

mosque.

King Hussein said last year the original plan had undergone numerous changes to rectify faults, including incorrect orientation of the Qiblah, or Niche, indicating the direction of Mecca.

King Hussein also received from Khayyat a copy of the Holy Koran and a gift on the occasion.

The celebration was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Rifai, Sharif Zaid, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and senior civil and military officials.

The octagonal mosque's light-blue dome and twin minarets dominate the city skyline from the site near the parliament building.

Khayyat has said the mosque and its extensive facilities are designed to accommodate 10,000 worshippers.

It will take over most state functions from the 67-year-old Hussein Mosque in bustling central Amman, the only other government-built mosque among the city's 430.

The new mosque was designed by West German architect Jan Cekja and Jordanians Rihbi Sibh and Hassan Nouri.

Khayyat said last year the original plan had undergone numerous changes to rectify faults, including incorrect orientation of the Qiblah, or Niche, indicating the direction of Mecca.

Police said most of the casual-

Arab League mediators appeal for ceasefire

20 more die as merciless bombardment hits Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — At least 20 people died Wednesday as rival sides pounded east and west Beirut with rockets and other artillery for the fifth straight day.

In Damascus, Kuwait's foreign minister, head of an Arab League mediation team made a new call for a ceasefire to start at Wednesday midnight.

After a six-hour talk with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait said "we appeal to all the warring parties to observe a ceasefire as of midnight." He did not say whether Assad had agreed to the truce.

Sheikh Sabah also called for attacks on ports and airports to end and crossing points opened between east and west Beirut.

"We are a committee representing the entire Arab World and we put the historic responsibility upon each party who does not comply with this call."

In an interview earlier in the day Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun signalled willingness to return to the situation before he imposed a blockade on opposition controlled Lebanese ports which set of the current round of fighting March 14.

Aoun told the London-based Mideast Mirror in a telephone interview telecast to the Associated Press in Bahrain that he would lift the blockade as long as the ports were not used to export drugs and arms. He called again for Syrian and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and said he would accept any other peacekeeping force.

Police put the toll at 20 killed and 68 wounded in the fierce exchanges that targeted residential areas.

That raised to 175 killed and 574 wounded the overall toll from the 29-day confrontation between Aoun's Falangist troops and an alliance of Syrian and Druze forces.

Police said most of the casual-

ties were reported in west Beirut where shells fired by Falangist gunners slammed into three vegetable markets and the Barak Hospital, one of the four major medical centres in the city's western sector.

A police spokesman said the Murr Tower, an unfinished 40-storey skyscraper used by Syrian troops west Beirut as a base for snipers and artillery sporters, took several direct hits from 155-millimetre Howitzers.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with police rules, said there was an undetermined number of Syrian casualties.

Syrian soldiers were seen evacuating casualties from the tall building. They shot their automa-

tic rifles in the air to make way for the vehicles that raced to unknown destinations.

Also Wednesday, Jean-Francois Deniau, vice president of the French National Assembly, arrived in the Falangist enclave for talks with Lebanese leaders on the present situation.

Meanwhile Deniau said Wednesday Syrian forces ordered the shelling of France's embassy in Beirut to try to prevent him from meeting Aoun.

He told French radio from Beirut that French embassy staff had intercepted a telephone call in which a Syrian officer ordered the shelling of the ambassador's residence, where he is staying.

"We have had confirmation through an intercepted call that orders were given to fire on the residence to prevent me from fulfilling my mission, to prevent me from meeting Gen. Aoun," Deniau said.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas earlier told the National Assembly that shells had landed about 100 metres from the embassy and had set fire to a petrol tank.

But Deniau told the Europe 1 radio station: "The building was targetting this morning and shells fell less than 20 metres away."

Deniau later drove in an armoured troop carrier to meet Aoun at the presidential palace in Baabda, target of heavy shelling.

"In the name of France I solemnly condemn the bombardments striking the civilian populations of Beirut," Dumas told the National Assembly.

France said Wednesday it was sending two ships with relief supplies to Beirut to help civilians caught in the artillery battle.

Deniau braved the shelling to cross the Green Line dividing the city to meet with Aoun's rival Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss in west Beirut.

A resident walks through the rubble of war-torn east Beirut

Crown Prince calls on southerners to return, take part in development

AQABA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday called on the inhabitants of the southern regions who had left their hometowns to return to the south and participate in its development.

The southern regions of Jordan account for nearly 50 per cent of the total area of the country and can absorb one third of the total amounts of investments, but unfortunately the area now is home for 10 per cent of the population, the Crown Prince said in an address to a meeting held here to assess the economic development process in the southern parts of the Kingdom, which includes the governorates of Karak and Tafilah and the district of Aqaba.

The southern regions of Jordan acquire a central location within the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and therefore should be developed economically and socially through various development schemes, the Crown Prince noted.

Developing the southern regions should be part of the all-out endeavour to implement the ACC objectives, Prince Hassan added.

He referred to the European Community (EC), which was established in 1957, and which, he said, took 35 years to reach the level at which its member countries can integrate, a process which is scheduled to take place in 1992.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the tourism sector in Aqaba which, he said, ought to attract investments of all kinds and due attention from the public as well as the private sectors.

appropriate time.

His Majesty King Hussein, due in Washington later this month, has, like Mubarak, long called for an international conference under U.N. auspices to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Osama said he detected a "new spirit" in American statements on the Middle East, if not actual policy changes. This was confirmed by Washington's decision in December to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He hoped Bush would leave Shamir in no doubt that a peace settlement required an end to the occupation and Palestinian self-determination. "That does not conflict with the security of all states in the region, including Israel," he said.

Qasem said the Lebanese must agree among themselves if they wanted the world to take them seriously.

"The most important thing is to stop any further deterioration, to have a ceasefire to save the Lebanon from more bloodshed and agonising experiences," Qasem, a member of the Arab League mediating committee on Lebanon, said.

"This will give the committee a chance to suggest a platform...

in the private sector. "At present most attention is being fixed on industry and agriculture in the southern regions of the Kingdom, a process which is being taken over by the private sector."

In all this, he said, the private sector "can play a leading role and can increase investments." The Crown Prince referred to the recently established industries at Agaba which, he said, have contributed to the general development.

At the outset of the meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other officials, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan outlined the objectives of the meeting and said that one important challenge facing Jordan now is the transfer of responsibility in socio-economic development from the public to

the private sector.

Asked whether pressures from Israel, Syria and Iraq were obstructing an understanding among Lebanese, he said: "I don't discount foreign influences in Lebanon... but the Lebanese cannot succumb to any outsider."

"They have to wake up to the fact that they must find a common denominator, a feeling of belonging to a country as their homeland that they want to promote and protect."

"This is a bare minimum for the Lebanese to show that they have a right to demand the serious attention of the Arabs and the world," he said.

Qasem said the committee, formed earlier this year, wanted to rehabilitate Lebanon's fractured state institutions.

"This will involve election of a president, constitutional reform and rectification of a certain sense of injustice that some Lebanese factions have felt through the years, whether this is social, political, economic or psychological," he added.

"Then, in the language of 242, 'Then, in the language of 242, a chance to suggest a platform..."

Israeli officer refuses help for injured Arab

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli army officer rushing to the scene of a car accident cancelled an ambulance after learning that the injured driver was an Arab, the independent Yediot Ahronot newspaper reported Wednesday.

The newspaper published a front-page interview with the driver, an Arab from the Israeli bedouin village of Rahat, who said he remained on the roadside for hours, suffering burns on his hands and face, after his car caught fire when his gas line ruptured.

The driver, Yusef Al Dibsan, 24, told the newspaper that soldiers sent away drivers that stopped to offer first aid by telling them: "It's OK, he's Arab."

A military spokesman said the army was investigating the report.

Dibsan said Yediot was alone in the car and dragged himself out after the accident. A few minutes later an army vehicle stopped and an officer, seeing Dibsan was injured, called an ambulance and the fire department.

"He asked me questions and when I told him that I lived in Rahat (a bedouin town in the Negev Desert) he said, 'so you're an Arab,'" Dibsan said.

"He moved away and I heard him cancelling the call for the ambulance and the fire squad," he said. "Because of my injuries I couldn't even beg him to evacuate me."

Dibsan said he was left lying on the roadside until a man from the farm where he works saw the flaming car. The man who helped, Shalom Arikah, told Yediot he ignored soldiers' orders to go away.

"I saw a burning car, but the soldiers told me that it was an Arab's car and I should not go near it," said Arikah.

"I feel we have started a very serious discussion," Shamir said after the two-hour meeting at the State Department. Baker called it "a very productive, useful, friendly discussion."

He said Shamir had made some

4 more youths hit by bullets as Israelis free 340 detainees

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (Agencies) — Israeli troops Wednesday shot and seriously wounded a 14-year-old Palestinian in the head in clashes with Palestinian protesters in Gaza City as the Israeli occupation authorities freed nearly 340 detainees.

Also in the Gaza Strip Wednesday, Israeli troops shot and wounded three schoolchildren with rubber bullets in the Khan Younis Refugee Camp, hospitals reported.

The released detainees were mainly protesters freed a few days before the expiry of their jail sentences, including 50 youngsters aged between 12 and 16.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said those freed included dozens of men detained without trial in stark conditions at the Ketziot desert prison camp, but no senior political activists.

At least 250 more prisoners from the occupied West Bank were on their way to Bethlehem to be freed later in the day.

Israel has announced a series of goodwill gestures in the last two days, ostensibly to mark the start of Ramadan, just as Shamir began a difficult mission to explain in Washington Israel's refusal to talk to the Palestine Liberation

organisation (PLO) or give back occupied Arab lands.

Defence Ministry officials authorised dozens of family reunifications for Palestinians whose spouses or children had been barred from residing in the occupied territories.

Mosque loudspeakers removed after broadcasting "incitement" were returned, some curfews were lifted and alleyways sealed to stop protesters were reopened.

But many of the 1.75 million Palestinians under occupation seemed unimpressed by the moves, saying they would not calm the uprising unless Israel addressed basic demands for self-determination and a Palestinian state.

One 13-year-old boy released in Gaza, Mahmoud Abu Kheyl, told reporters when asked whether his parents were angry with him for being arrested during protests: "I think they are proud of me."

At least 419 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising

Kabul rocket bombardment kills 6

KABUL (Agencies) — Rockets smashed into Kabul for the second successive day Wednesday killing six people and injuring 23, police said.

Two rockets fired from the hills outside the Afghan capital exploded in the city, mowing down a lethal spray of shrapnel, witnesses said.

One landed in a park, killing an old man and a child, and the other in a shopping street, destroying a cigarette shop, killing its owner and killing or maiming shoppers.

Six rockets hit a northern residential area of Kabul Tuesday, killing at least six people and possibly as many as 12.

The attacks on the capital follow a lull of several weeks and residents fear that with the advent of spring the Mujahedeen rebels fighting to topple the government may be stepping up their campaign to demoralise Kabul's two million inhabitants.

In New Delhi, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted as saying Pakistan is risking its reputation by backing Afghan rebels despite accords that led to the departure of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

"Islamabad has embarked on a road of actual refusal from

observing the obligations under the accords, sanctified by the name and authority of the U.N.," he said in an interview published in the Indian Patriot newspaper Wednesday.

"Any government should think twice before challenging the international community in such a way and before resorting to such a gross violation of international law," he said.

"It puts at stake too much — the reputation of the country, on whose word one could rely, as well as the future of its relations with the countries of the region," Shevardnadze said.

More than 100,000 Soviet troops left Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under Geneva accords brokered by the United Nations one year ago.

Under the accords, Pakistan and Moscow pledged not to interfere in Afghanistan.

"This obligation is openly and flagrantly violated," Shevardnadze said.

Moscow contends that by continuing to supply Afghan rebel Mujahedeen from its own terri-

tory, Pakistan is in breach of the agreements and has said Islamabad risks war with Afghanistan, where the government is holding out without Soviet troops.

Shevardnadze did not repeat that implied threat in his interview with the Patriot.

"Pakistan has quite a few big and complicated problems. By its defiant policies towards Afghanistan it will only aggravate these problems and will put itself in an even more difficult position," he said, however.

Kabul spy trial

Meanwhile Pakistan's Foreign Ministry dismissed the trial of two alleged Pakistani spies by the Afghan government Wednesday as a "desperate ploy."

A ministry spokesman told reporters at a briefing that Pakistan viewed Kabul's attempts to involve the United Nations Security Council in the Afghan conflict as merely propaganda.

Kabul has said the two men were going on trial in a public hearing to prove that Pakistan was actively helping rebel guerrillas inside Afghanistan.

But the Pakistani spokesman said the Afghan government had given no proof that the two men,

captured near the southern city of Kandahar in March, were Pakistanis at all.

"You can catch any two people and put them on television and claim they they are Pakistanis," he said. "Basically this is a desperate try to try and prove that we are involved."

The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's denial that it was involved militarily in the 10-year-old civil war in its north-western neighbour.

"Pakistan has never interfered with what goes on in Afghanistan," he said.

The Soviet-backed Kabul government says Pakistani militia and army officers are fighting alongside the rebels laying siege to the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Some rebels say privately Pakistan's military intelligence agency is active in advising them and controlling the supply of Western and other arms. But they deny any regular Pakistani units are involved in the fighting.

U.N. appeal

The Kabul government called Monday for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss what it described as Pakistan's military aggression.

household names in Egypt — and comedian Sayed Zayyan, 45.

All three were freed on bail ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 Egyptian pounds (\$400 to \$800).

A fifth suspect, identified by police as Eid Darwish, 45, a merchant, was also released on bail.

Zayyan failed to turn up for Tuesday night's performance in a current stage production in the fashionable neighbourhood of Zamalek, a theatre worker told Reuters.

The government has said it would soon draft new legislation increasing the penalties for drug offences.

Psychiatrists estimate two million of Egypt's 45 million people are addicted to heroin or cocaine.

drug abuse plaster the Cairo tene- ments haunts of dealers and users.

The police raid has shown that Egypt's multi-million dollar entertainment business, where wealthy stars enjoy exotic lifestyles far from the poverty of many of their fans, was not immune from the government's anti-drug offensive.

Among the noted entertainers pulled in by the police was Ahmad Kahlawi, 35, a singer of religious songs. He is being held for further questioning, police said.

Three others found in the hashish-smoke filled apartment were Emad Abdul Halim, 29, tall singer of love songs, Nemat Mustapha, 24, the "showbusiness songstress known as Sali" — both

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Egypt. Those convicted face stiff fines and prison terms from five years to life.

Last month, an Egyptian court rejected a British woman's appeal against a 25-year prison sentence for smuggling heroin concealed in a wooden elephant. Maureen Paleschi, 51, from Cleveland in northeast England, said she did not know the drugs were in the elephant which she said an Egyptian friend had given her as a present in Karachi.

The arrests of the entertainers highlight a huge campaign to curb trafficking and persuade Egyptian youths not to try heroin, cocaine and hashish on sale in Cairo's backstreets.

Posters with skull and crossbones warning of the dangers of

drug abuse plaster the Cairo tene- ments haunts of dealers and users.

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Iraq vows retaliation is attacked

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq, whose nuclear reactor was destroyed by Israel in 1981, said Wednesday it would strongly retaliate against any future attacks by the Jewish state.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told the Iraq News Agency (INA): "Iraq will retaliate in an appropriate way to any Israeli aggression which may take place under distorted justifications. Any aggression will not pass with our punishment."

Rafael Eitan, an Israeli army chief at the time of the air raid on the Iraqi reactor, recently said that Israel should destroy the facility if Baghdad rebuilt it.

The Iraqi spokesman's remarks followed unconfirmed Western press reports that Baghdad was developing nuclear weapons.

The spokesman said that among "the distorted Zionist attempts to undermine Iraq's reputation were those claiming that Iraq was manufacturing nuclear warheads."

He said the Israeli campaign came at a time when the Arab peace assault was being stepped up to uncover Israeli crimes aimed at hampering world peace efforts.

During Iraq's eight-year war with neighbouring Iran, Baghdad hit Tehran with missiles equipped with conventional warheads. Their 850-kilometre range showed that Iraq could hit Israel.

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ZARQA:

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NIGHT DUTY

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Israel radio station bans intifada song

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The army radio station has restricted broadcasts of a newly released Israeli rock song about the Palestinian uprising because its subject matter is "sensitive," an army official said.

The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's denial that it was involved militarily in the 10-year-old civil war in its north-western neighbour.

"Pakistan has never interfered with what goes on in Afghanistan," he said.

The song called the Flood Is

Behind Us, written by Nurit Galron, accuses Israelis in the coastal city of Tel Aviv of showing indifference toward Arab suffering during the nearly 16-month rebellion in the occupied territories.

The military station played the song several times before Station Commander Nahman Shai ordered it taken off the air and played in the future only with his express consent, two Israeli news dailies, Hadashot and Maariv, reported Wednesday.

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No, don't tell me about a little girl who lost an eye. It only makes me feel bad.

I don't feel like hearing about people oppressed or tortured.

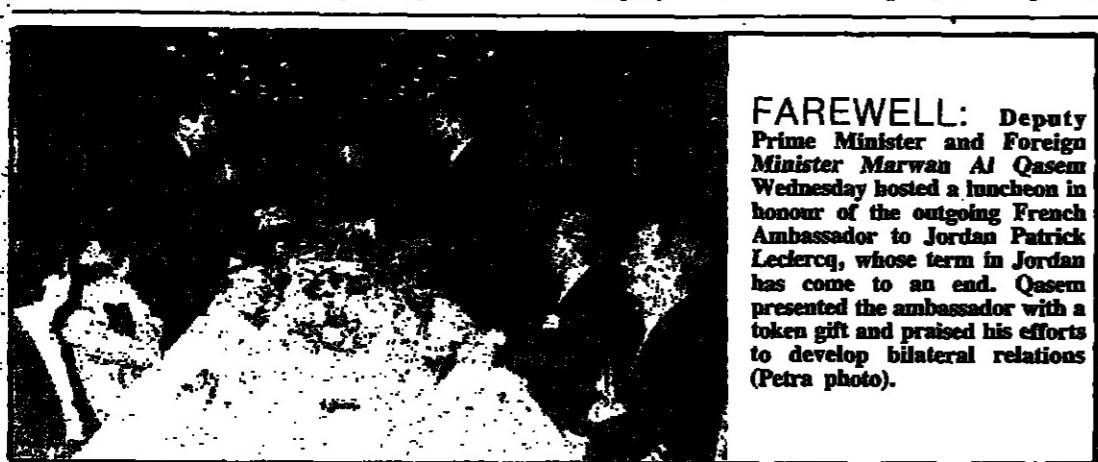
I don't care what is happening in the territories..

We will make love and live our lives. Tel Aviv is life.

Last year Israeli radio stations restricted broadcast of another protest song about Israel's handling of the uprising called Shooting and Crying, by rock star Cy Hyman.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday listens to briefing on Amman plans by Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh during Her Majesty's visit to the municipality (Petra photo)



FAREWELL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday hosted a luncheon in honour of the outgoing French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Lefèvre, whose term in Jordan has come to an end. Qasem presented the ambassador with a token gift and praised his efforts to develop bilateral relations (Petra photo).



'Hashemite ensured Muslim-Christian unity'

Patriarch of Jerusalem inaugurates Salt church



Patriarch Sabbah

AMMAN (Petra) — The Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah has inaugurated a new church in Salt where he said mass at a religious ceremony attended by a large congregation and invited guests including Balqa Governor Mijhem Al Kheirisha.

The patriarch's sermon at the mass centered on Christian-Muslim unity which, he said, has been maintained in the Kingdom under the Hashemite family since the creation of the Kingdom earlier this century.

The patriarch expressed the Roman Catholic church's appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Anis Al Muasher, a former minister

and businessman from Salt, for financing the project.

The mayor's deputy Mr. Mousa Al Dabbas delivered a speech, voicing the local community's appreciation to the Roman Catholic mission for its valuable services to Salt since the middle of the 19th century, especially in the educational fields.

According to Roman Catholic priest Jihad Shweihat, the old church was set up in Salt in 1869.

The patriarch was accorded an official welcome ceremony and a reception after the mass attended by notable personalities, government department directors and other key figures in Salt and the neighbouring regions.

Jordan needs 4,000 nurses by 2000

RAMTHA (Petra) — Jordan now has a total of 2,210 female nurses of whom 574 are non-Jordanian, but the Kingdom will need to have 4,000 nurses by the year 2000, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said Wednesday.

The minister was addressing a seminar at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) organised to discuss nursing training and the role of nursing in primary health care services in Jordan.

Malhas said that the ministry plans to train and recruit the

required number of nurses through its nursing institutes of which six already exist in the country.

Since 1978 when the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced its drive to provide primary health care services, Jordan has been striving to attain this goal with the help of different institutions and through the contribution of nurses. At present nurses are being employed in the primary health care centres, the mother and child care centres and hospitals around the country, the

minister noted.

He said that the medical services in the country have reached such a level that patients are seldom sent abroad for treatment for lack of proper or sufficient medical care.

The primary health care centres, the minister added, provide immunisation programmes as an important contribution towards enhancing preventive medicine and to provide protection against common diseases.

Malhas referred to the National Medical Institution (NMI) which he said came to re-organise the medical services and provide even a better quality and more qualified nurses for hospitals and the primary health care centres alike.

The minister announced that the seminar will discuss a programme to be worked out jointly between the Health Ministry and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This programme entails incorporating nursing services and nursing college training with the Health Ministry's primary health care centres, a step designed to raise the standards of the centres' services to the public, the minister pointed out.

He noted that the majority of the 470 female workers at the centres are considered as assistant nurses and assistant midwives.

Dr. Naji Najib, dean of the nursing faculty at JUST said in a speech that Jordan was striving to promote primary health care services to cover all parts of the Kingdom by the year 2000 as called for by the WHO.

POETRY RECITAL

* A poetry recital by the great Arab poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayati at Abdin Hamid Showan Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

* A feature film entitled "Brian's Song" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting various aspects of life in China at the University of Jordan.
- * An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Basim Al Sheikh which includes paintings depicting Jordanian costumes through ages and modern views of Amman at Philadelphia Hall.
- * An art exhibition by Salma Hamad Al Thani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition by Haitham Jweinat at the Professional Associations Complex, Irbid.

POETRY RECITAL

- * A poetry recital by the great Arab poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayati at Abdin Hamid Showan Foundation — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A feature film entitled "Brian's Song" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Queen Noor visits Amman Municipality

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited the Municipality of Greater Amman where the Queen was briefed on the municipality's projects aimed at highlighting the archaeological, historical and cultural significance of the capital.

The Queen was received upon arrival by the Mayor of Greater Amman, Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh who thanked Her Majesty for her continued support and encouragement of the efforts of the municipality.

The municipality is currently working on the design and execution of four main projects which include a political life museum, Amman Citadel development, landscaping of Al Qsour slopes as well as the designs for a new municipality of Greater Amman building.

The Political Life Museum is going to be established within the old parliament building, where the story of modern Jordan will be told. The aim of the museum is to expose the important political events through the lives of those who contributed to them and to inform the young about the cultural development of the country by enlightening them about the roots of the Kingdom's prosperity.

The political events will be divided into a chronological order related to the Hashemite Kings starting with Al Hussein Ibn Ali, Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, King Talal Ibn Abdulla and His Majesty King Hussein Ibn Talal.

The Queen later visited the old parliament building where she was also briefed on the planned museum project.

The citadel development project will focus on preserving the most important archaeological site in the capital, the citadel and the Umayyad palace. The site also contains Ammonite, Hellenistic, Roman and Islamic remains.

The objectives of the project include the completion of archaeological excavation and renovation to prepare the site for tourism, and the construction of necessary services and infrastructure such as motels, restaurants and libraries. The main concept behind the development of Al Qsour slopes is to minimise structural work, conserve the slopes topography and improve the visual link between the road and the area by planting trees and shrubs.

The new Municipality of Greater Amman building will be constructed to allow harmony with the municipality's role in society and its operational duties. The architecture of the building would symbolise the society's heritage. The building will be constructed at the centre of a 100 dunum public park.

At the end of her visit, the Queen praised the efforts of the municipality and its continued endeavours to provide the citizens of the capital with basic services and beautifying the city of Amman.

The Queen later visited the old parliament building where she was also briefed on the planned museum project.



Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Wednesday sees off a team of Jordanian aid specialists leaving for South Yemen to help in relief operations there (Petra photo)

Upon directives from His Majesty the King:

Jordan sends relief supplies to S.Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Wednesday dispatched relief supplies to South Yemen where thousands of people were rendered homeless as a result of floods, described by news reports as the worst in 50 years.

A military plane-load of food, medical supplies and medical appliances weighing altogether 12 tonnes left for Aden upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, according to an official announcement here Tuesday.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who saw off the mission, said that the gift was in response to a call by the South Yemeni government, and in an expression of solidarity with Arab brothers in adversity.

Malhas said that Jordan was willing to send a team of medical officers and nurses to the flood stricken country to offer assistance as needed.

South Yemen is the second

Arab country to receive relief supplies from Jordan after Sudan which was hit by floods, drought and famine over the past few years.

South Yemen had appealed for international aid after the floods, caused by a week of torrential rain in the normally arid regions, swept away hundreds of houses and inundated thousands of acres of farmland. Initial reports said that at least 20 people were killed and tens of thousands were made homeless.

An official of the emergency relief committee said that the authorities were struggling to reopen roads and communications with the stricken areas.

Several Arab states including Saudi Arabia have already sent in relief supplies, tents and blankets. South Yemen which has a population of about 2.5 million is one of the world's poorest countries.

Meanwhile it was announced that a Jordanian vessel loaded with relief supplies arrived in Port Said in Egypt Wednesday on its way to Sudan. The supplies were sent as a gift from the Jordanian people to the Sudanese victims of floods, drought and famine. The vessel is loaded with cloths and building materials to be used in the construction of homes for the Sudanese victims.

According to the announcement here the gift was organised through the National Jordanian Committee for Solidarity with Sudan which is working under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who chairs the committee.



Food and medical supplies are being loaded Wednesday on a C-130 Air Force plane heading for S. Yemen (Petra photo)

Disease cases on the increase

CPF to open kindergarten for cerebral palsy children

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) is currently studying the prospect of opening a kindergarten and a school to provide special education to children with cerebral palsy cases, according to CPF Director Fakhri Bilbeisi.

Bilbeisi said that the projected school which will help pave the way for the victims to join normal schools was expected to cost between JD 15,000 and JD 20,000 annually.

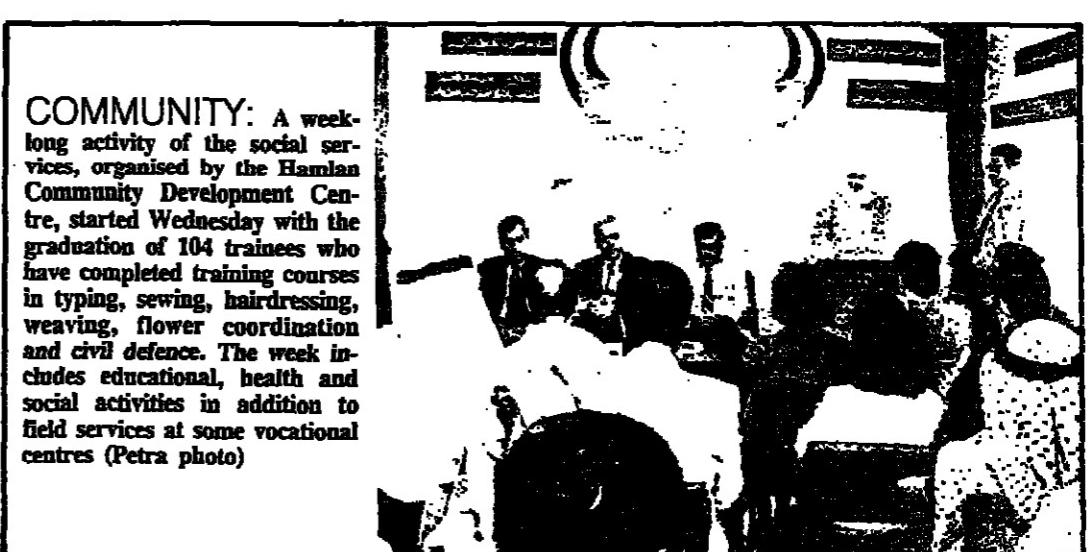
He said that the CPF is also studying the possibility of opening additional centres in different governorates to work alongside the present five centres.

He said that the number of

children with cerebral palsy is on the increase and noted that the five centres last year provided assistance and treatment to 683 new cases against 547 in 1987. Bilbeisi added that the number of children treated by the CPF since its establishment in 1977 was 4,000.

Specialists at the five centres located in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt provide guidance to the families of the children with cerebral palsy cases on means of treatment and of the children and continue to distribute pamphlets and booklets with instructions to deal with cerebral palsy.

In addition to treatment and advice, Bilbeisi said, the CPF centres provide special equipment to help in the process of children rehabilitation.



COMMUNITY: A week-long activity of the social services, organised by the Hamdan Community Development Centre, started Wednesday with the graduation of 104 trainees who have completed training courses in typing, sewing, hairdressing, weaving, flower coordination and civil defence. The week includes educational, health and social activities in addition to field services at some vocational centres (Petra photo)

Juvenile delinquency discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Public Security Department club Tuesday evening to discuss juvenile delinquency in the Kingdom.

Director of the Civil Registration and Passport Department Issa Omari outlined the various problems related to juvenile delinquency and ways to handle juvenile delinquency as well as

measures to enhance social defence against criminals in Jordan over the past years.

Major General Yousef Gharyeb, who addressed the meeting, outlined the different measures that are being taken to give protection to the society from criminals and ways to handle juvenile delinquency.

Jordan Times

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Enforce the ban

APRIL 7 marks non-smoking day in Jordan and elsewhere in compliance with the recommendation of the World Health Organisation. Jordan has already taken many measures to ban smoking in public places. Last month alone saw the introduction of additional legislative action to prohibit smoking in all sorts of public places as well as impose penalties on violators. All ministries and public and private institutions were called upon to disseminate and enforce the new legal guidelines. Yet in practice, smoking goes on even in some public places, that includes board rooms, within the very ministries charged with the task of educating the people against smoking. It seems that what we need in Jordan is more than legislation and theoretical penalties to combat the habit of smoking. The full weight of the prime minister himself is urgently needed to give credence to the new rules by issuing a circular to all ministries and private and public bodies to give full faith and credit to the new rules. It seems that thus far, our authorities have taken the new policy against smoking with a grain of salt as illustrated by the continuation of the habit of smoking in public places before the very eyes of those who are charged with the task of enforcing the new law. Only through the intervention of the prime minister there could be hope to convince the various shades of officialdom that the government means what it has legislated and that non-smoking in public meeting places will be strictly enforced.

The minister of health is also called upon to prosecute the first case against violators. Surely since the introduction of the new rules, Jordan has yet to hear about a violator who has been penalised as called for in our law books. Such cases against violators would serve as case celebre to which much publicity should be given. Without such additional action-oriented measures to compliment the new legislation against smoking, the new rules would remain ink on paper. May then the non-smokers and all those who genuinely care about the health of Jordanians expect something more than seminars and laws to stem the dangerous habit of smoking? The observance of the 7th of April as the non-smoking day in Jordan would not be complete without such additional complimentary steps.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Wednesday tackled the Bush-Mubarak meeting in Washington which it said resulted in full agreement on the need to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The paper said that the meeting showed beyond doubt that the United States supported the convening of an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict but that procedural matters still stand in the way. The major stumbling bloc, the paper added, is Shamir and his government which refuses to talk to the PLO or attend an international conference ... Shamir, who is visiting the United States soon, will have to present his government's views and whatever ideas he has in mind can never change the fact that his government is adamant in its position and its persistence on pursuing its goals in the Arab land, the paper noted. What is required now, the paper said, is a U.S. pressure on Israel to accept the conference idea and the will of the international community so that peace can be established in our region.

Al Dustour daily said in its editorial that the eyes of the Middle Eastern people are now turned towards the American capital where the Bush administration is holding meetings with leaders of the Middle Eastern countries involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper noted that the meetings clearly manifest a true interest in the Middle East on the part of the United States and point to the seriousness of American diplomatic activity designed to help the two parties end the conflict. This is clearly demonstrated not only in the meetings as such but in the statements of George Bush following his initial meeting with President Mubarak, the paper noted. It said that Bush made it clear that the United States supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and will seek an end to Israeli occupation. Indeed this is a very favourable development and a new trend which can only help bring an end to the Middle East conflict, the paper added. It said that the United States now has a historic opportunity to play a major role in bringing peace to the Middle East.

Sawt Al Shabab daily newspaper said that the Mubarak-Bush meetings in Washington reflect the seriousness of the American position and U.S. genuine moves towards establishing peace in the Middle East. The paper said that the American president's statement about the need to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and to help the Palestinians gain their legitimate rights reflects a genuine orientation towards the establishment of a lasting peace. What we understand now, the paper said, is that the United States backs a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip but we expect more from the U.S. administration — to back up its stand with deeds rather than words. What is needed now, the paper said, is a genuine and practical response to the PLO's stand which was openly supportive of the idea of peace and an end to all forms of conflict in the area.

Israel's flagrant abuse of Palestinian economy

By Hisham Awartani

THE ECONOMIC collapse in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in recent months has attracted unusual attention in the Israeli and international news media and, for various reasons, has caused mounting concern to many on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The stories in the Israeli media seem to imply that the economic crash in both territories is only a recent phenomenon, and that it is more or less self-inflicted by the Palestinians as the cost of their intifada. Very few Israelis — there are some — have raised questions about whether Israeli economic practices in the occupied territories may have contributed to the pressure that led to the intifada.

Furthermore, there does not seem to be any realistic insight into the long-term consequences of the present suffering in the cause of peace, which, at least in theory, is a highly cherished priority on the agenda of all sides.

It is important to point out, up front, that the roots of economic deterioration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip go back long before the outbreak of the intifada. That may sound like a surprise to most casual observers who have been bombarded for many years with tales of spectacular growth in the economy of the two territories and in the living standards of their residents.

It is true, as a matter of fact, that for nearly two decades the West Bank and Gaza Strip witnessed a pronounced rise in growth rates and living standards. But one does not have to be a professional economist to suspect that such achievements might have been underlaid by transformations of a profoundly adverse nature.

The economy of the territories, for instance, was subordinated to that of Israel in a model of dependency that is much worse than typical models commonly reviewed in economic literature. This subordination permitted the emergence of excessive consumerism, a development viewed by many Palestinian activists with great concern, not only because it reflects unfounded affluence but also because it aggravates the vulnerability of the Palestinian society to political pressure.

Superficial affluence during the 1970s concealed serious transformations in the local productive base, of which the following are some disturbing examples:

— Agriculture has lost much of its relative weight in the national economy. Its share in gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by more than one third and its share in the labour force declined by nearly 50 per cent. Not surprisingly, rural areas have become a reservoir of cheap labour, tapped mainly by Israeli firms. The area under active cultivation (including natural pasture) has decreased by 21 per cent.

— Industry has fared no better. Its share of the GDP remained at its pre-occupation level of about 8-10 per cent, and it employed around 16 per cent of the labour force. Growth in industry is confined largely to industrial branches that have flourished as a result of peripheral subordination to Israeli industrial firms.

Because of retarded growth in the local economic base, migration of workers to neighbouring labour markets, mainly in Israel, has become the panacea for economic survival. Remittances from emigrant labourers constitute the backbone of the national economy, so much so that their GDP share exceeded (in some years) that of agriculture and industry combined.

Unemployment among the Palestinian elite has become a national hazard. A study conducted in 1985 revealed that only 15 per cent of the annual crop of graduates succeeded in finding stable employment locally. The rest either remained redundant or sought employment in Israel.

It is true that achieving genuine economic growth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is obstructed by numerous deep-rooted constraints — such as scarcity of resources and the small size of local markets. But many of the distortions that characterised the Palestinian economy over the past 22 years came about as a direct result of the occupation authorities' premeditated policies.

You do not have to subscribe to a grand conspiracy theory to conclude that Israeli economic policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were laid down after Israeli interests were carefully weighed against those of the local Palestinians. Reading through the records, Israeli interests pursued through economic means can be identified as follows:

— Expediting emigration to the furthest limit.

— Gaining control over the maximum of land and water resources.

— Maintaining the occupied territories as a captive market for the ailing Israeli economy.

— Drawing surplus cheap Palestinian labour into the Israeli

labour market.

— Using economic decisions to enforce a carrot-and-stick policy.

— Undermining independent economic development to pre-empt the viability of a future Palestinian state.

Achieving these objectives was entrusted to the civil administration in the West Bank and Gaza, which is staffed with Israelis, most of them recruited from corresponding departments in Israel. Each department in the civil administration headquarters is headed by an officer invested with the duties and legal status of a minister.

The stories in the Israeli media seem to imply that the economic crash in both territories is only a recent phenomenon, and that it is more or less self-inflicted by the Palestinians as the cost of their intifada. Very few Israelis — there are some — have raised questions about whether Israeli economic practices in the occupied territories may have contributed to the pressure that led to the intifada.

Planning in all development-related departments has been routinely "coordinated" with corresponding Israeli institutions.

And if anyone is in doubt about whose interests underlie the planning process, the answer is provided by Rabin's vow that "there will be no development in the territories initiated by the Israeli government, and no permits given for expanding agriculture or industry that may compete with the state of Israel."

Exploitative planning for 22 years has undoubtedly drawn its heavy toll, as evidenced by the track record of Israeli planners in the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

— Employment potential in both territories has declined so sharply that emigration absorbs about two thirds of the natural population growth (about 15,000 annually).

— Well over 50 per cent of all West Bank land area is under Israeli control.

— Under the hypocritical premise that water resources in the West Bank should be shared "fairly" by both legitimate owners, Palestinians and Israelis, the latter exploit about 70 per cent of the West Bank's usable reserves, and the Palestinians are left with only 30 per cent.

— By restructuring bilateral trade so that Israeli produce is permitted free access to the markets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as compared to the selective flow of goods in the opposite direction, Israel managed in 1987 to achieve a surplus of \$802 million vis-a-vis both territories, including East Jerusalem.

Israeli policies bearing on the West Bank and Gaza Strip economies have taken a sharp turn because of the intifada. Following the failure of military measures to quell the Palestinian uprising, the Israeli authorities seem to have decided to mobilise all available means for the explicit objective of maximising the suffering of the Palestinian residents. They apparently hope that at some point the Palestinians will realise that the cost of the intifada outweighs its anticipated gains.

To that end, the lives of Palestinian residents have been linked in countless ways to the district officer of the Israeli civil administration. Every adult resident has to make the pilgrimage to those offices every time he seeks to conduct the bits and pieces of his normal life. Needless to emphasise, every signature he is asked to collect on his papers — and there are many — costs him time, humiliation, and sometimes exorbitant fees.

To complement other restrictive measures, the Israeli authorities decided to tighten the economic belts. Thus they managed to achieve swiftly by imposing draconian sanctions such as the following:

— Tax rates and collection harassments were escalated to the point where many firms chose to quit or scale down their operations to a minimum.

— The Canadian and U.S. armed forces also face a declining manpower base. In 1979, 2.2 million Americans were old enough to sign up for military service. This fell to 1.9 million last year and is forecast to tumble to 1.6 million by 1992.

The culprit is a falling birth rate in virtually all NATO nations due to greater use of the birth-control pill in recent decades.

"The problem is not acute in West Germany," said a SHAPE official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "By the year 2000, the supply of draft-age West German males will decline by 45 per cent compared with 1985."

In that same period, he said, the Netherlands will see a 30 per cent drop; Belgium, 27 per cent; Britain and Luxembourg, both 25 per cent; Italy, 23 per cent; Denmark, 17 per cent; France, 13 per cent; and Portugal, 9 per cent.

In wartime, NATO would field 5 million troops. Half of them are reserves — men and women who have done military service or volunteer citizen-soldiers — whose key wartime task is to provide logistical support for combat troops.

The United States already has begun beefing up the role of its reserves, increasing their numbers from 1.4 million to 1.7 million since 1980.

West Germany also has begun increasing the number of reservists for military exercises, but with mixed results: in 1985, one-third never showed up.

One problem is that reservists do not enjoy equal prestige in all allied nations. Notable exceptions are the United States, Norway and Denmark.

Military planners also say national rules and regulations for reserve forces vary widely, particularly in length of education and training periods, and how long the military skills are maintained.

"As a result, there is a large pool of reserves ... which is not trained to the extent required," the SHAPE official said.

Some NATO nations also are considering how to better use personnel, lengthen the draft (which West Germany did this year) and expand the role of women in the military.

Export permits to Jordan and Israel were denied for such major items as melons, vegetables, grapes and building stones.

Regulations concerning the transfer of funds have been severely tightened, basically forbidding the entry of more than 200 Jordanian dinars per incoming traveller or bank transaction.

This arbitrary restriction has greatly undermined economic activity, and has also made life very difficult for the great number of families who, in effect, subsist on remittances they receive from relatives.

Long curfews and sieges have entailed far-reaching consequences for all economic sectors, especially agriculture. A recent study involving a sample of eight villages put the cumulative loss inflicted as a consequence of punitive measures during the first 10 months of the intifada at \$6.5m.

"There will be no development in the territories initiated by the Israeli government, and no permits given for expanding agriculture or industry that may compete with the state of Israel." — Rabin

For unclear reasons, all car owners were required to change the plates of their cars, paying in the meantime an additional fee ("intifada Tax") amounting to NIS 300-500 per car. With more than 62,000 vehicles in the West Bank and 25,000 in the Gaza Strip, the amount of shekels required for this purpose was certainly an important reason for the predicament of the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territories.

Punitive fines are imposed on parents for offences committed by their minors. The naive intent is to enlist all members in the family in the effort to restrain their "stray" son.

The list of economic pressures is too long and too subtle to be fully exposed here. Nonetheless, one should admit that if those measures were devised to make the life of Palestinians as difficult as possible, their authors can congratulate themselves for a job well done.

Yes, the amount of suffering inflicted on Palestinians in the territories has reached alarming

levels, with no remembered parallel in recent history. But if the architects of that suffering expect that they can thus quell the intifada or serve the cause of peace — as they evidently do — they are grossly mistaken.

History is loaded with examples of the failure of economic sanctions in efforts to twist the arms of governments or dampen the will of people to fight for their freedom. Far from some Israelis' expectations, inflicting more suffering on the Palestinians will only aggravate bitterness and widen the rift between mainstream camps on both sides.

It is ironic and certainly tragic to see that the architects of Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip seem to fail to understand, or probably refuse to believe, that what Palestinians are fighting for is simply to restore their rights, as those rights are most modestly defined.

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EN BREF
Arafat chef d'Etat

Yasser Arafat est, depuis dimanche, officiellement confirmé dans ses fonctions de chef de l'Etat indépendant de Palestine.

Le Conseil central de l'OLP, réuni à Tunis depuis le 1er avril, a célébré la décision prise par le Comité exécutif la semaine précédente. Yasser Arafat cumule désormais les fonctions de chef de l'Etat, de président du Comité exécutif de l'OLP et de commandant en chef des forces armées palestiniennes. Il a reçu le soutien de l'ensemble des membres du Conseil central de l'OLP, y compris de l'opposition palestinienne représentée notamment par Nafez Hawatmeh, secrétaire général du Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine, et par Georges Habache, secrétaire général du Front populaire de libération de la Palestine. Ce dernier s'est déclaré prêt à participer à un gouvernement provisoire qui s'engagerait à respecter les résolutions du dernier Conseil national palestinien (15 novembre, à Alger), la renonciation à la création d'un Etat palestinien et leur droit à l'autodétermination. Yasser Arafat a reçu nombre de messages de félicitations, notamment du roi Hussein de Jordanie, du président tunisien Ben Ali, du roi Fahd et du prince héritier saoudien, du président algérien Chadli, et, en Europe, du chef de l'Etat allemand Erich Honecker. La nomination de Yasser Arafat à la tête de l'Etat palestinien intervient alors que la diplomatie palestinienne est en phase ascendante. Le Canada, l'un des derniers pays occidentaux à bouter l'OLP, vient en effet de lever son veto sur les contacts à haut niveau avec l'organisation palestinienne.

Un responsable de l'ONU à Amman

Le secrétaire général-adjoint des Nations-Unies, M. Marrack Goulding, a effectué lundi une brève visite à Amman, où il a été reçu par le ministre jordanien des Affaires étrangères, M. Marwan al-Kassam. M. Goulding, qui venait de Bagdad, a notamment évoqué lors de cet entretien les efforts de la Jordanie pour instaurer la paix dans la région. Il a également remis à M. al-Kassam - «appréciation» du secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la contribution de la Jordanie aux forces des Nations-Unies en Angola.

Un écrivain palestinien arrêté en Cisjordanie

L'écrivain palestinien Sami el-Kilani a été arrêté le week-end dernier par les forces de sécurité israéliennes à Naplouse. Les raisons de l'arrestation de M. Kilani, membres de l'association des poètes et écrivains palestiniens, n'ont pas été précisées. De source palestinienne, on précise lundi que trois autres membres de l'association ont été placés en détention administratives ces derniers mois et n'ont toujours pas été libérés par l'armée israélienne.

Collision ferroviaire meurtrière en Egypte

Cinq personnes ont péri brûlées et plus de cent cinquante autres ont été grièvement blessées dimanche dans la collision de deux trains, près du Caire. L'accident serait dû à une erreur d'aiguillage. Les deux convois, dont l'un transportait du maïzen, se sont heurtés de plein front. Selon les autorités égyptiennes, l'autre train transportait près de trois mille passagers.

Inauguration de la mosquée Abdullah à Amman

Le roi Hussein de Jordanie a inauguré hier la mosquée du roi Abdullah, dans le quartier d'Abdali à Amman. Sous son dôme bleu, la nouvelle mosquée pourra recevoir jusqu'à quatre cents croyants. Une librairie, un parking, quelques quarante échoppes ainsi qu'un centre commercial nouvellement construit. Le coût total des travaux effectués est estimé à près de huit millions et demi de dinars.

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en free-lance, avec des idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages. Anglais accepté. Contacter François Ducroux au Jourdain Times, 667171.

Des étudiants français à Amman
La science et la culture

Trente deux étudiants français de Télécom Paris et de l'école des Ponts et Chaussées sont arrivés à Amman samedi dernier pour un séjour d'une semaine en Jordanie.

Objectif avoué pour leurs professeurs d'arabe, qui les accompagnent dans leur périple: les plonger dans le bain de la vie locale pour leur faire pratiquer la langue le plus possible.

Ils et elles ont entre 22 et 24 ans. Elèves de deuxième et troisième années des écoles d'ingénieurs de Télécom Paris et des Ponts et Chaussées, on les croit volontiers exclusivement férus de calculs savants et de technologie de pointe. Erreur. Ces futurs ingénieurs ont gardé un coin de matière grise pour découvrir d'autres civilisations. En l'occurrence, celle du monde arabe.

Leur séjour en Jordanie jusqu'au 9 avril est avant tout destiné à leur faire pratiquer la langue, explique leur accompagnateur et professeur d'arabe, Antoine Karam. «Tous les étudiants qui font ce voyage ont dernière eux une année d'initiation». Le prof est d'ailleurs plutôt fier de ses élèves. Même si, comme l'avoue l'un d'entre eux, la perspective d'une semaine de dépensement a pu l'emporter chez certains sur l'effort linguistique: "ils sont de toute façon

MM. Moubarak et Shamir aux Etats-Unis
La porte étroite de Washington

Le président égyptien a quitté Washington pour le Caire, hier, à l'issue d'une visite officielle de quatre jours aux Etats-Unis. Hosni Moubarak s'est entretenu pendant une heure lundi avec George Bush. Les deux hommes ont réaffirmé leur commun engagement en faveur du processus de paix au Proche-Orient. Sans parvenir toutefois à tomber d'accord sur la convocation d'une conférence internationale, pour amener Palestiniens et Israéliens à ouvrir des négociations directes. M. Moubarak a par ailleurs refusé de rencontrer M. Shamir, arrivé mardi soir dans la capitale américaine.

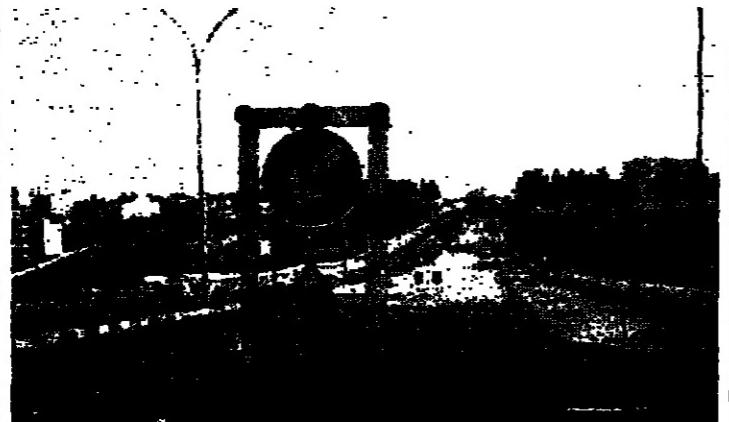
Obligés de se débrouiller, pour prendre le taxi ou se remplir le ventre...», se réjouit Antoine Karam.

S'ils ont souvent "quartier libre" pour aller flâner où bon leur semble dans les rues d'Amman, les jeunes arabophones ont également un agenda bien rempli. Avec, par exemple, de visites de Telecom Corporation (TCC), de la télévision jordanienne, du Destour et de la Société scientifique royale.

Quant au programme touristique, il les aura conduits à Jérusalem ou encore à la Mer Morte... Le tout pour 2.000 francs par étudiant, souligne Antoine Karam, grâce à l'aide financière de plusieurs entreprises françaises comme Alcatel, Sofrecom, ou encore TDF.

Preuve que si l'anglais reste la langue hégémonique, les industries ne sont pas si indifférents que ça des ingénieurs qui investissent dans d'autres langues et d'autres cultures.

Les étudiants de Télécom Paris et des Ponts et Chaussées le sentent bien, au point d'avoir créé, au début de cette année avec leur professeur, une association qu'ils ont baptisée "Arabisants grandes écoles". Leur objectif: développer les échanges cultures et scientifiques avec leurs homologues du monde arabe.

Alain Renon.
Le pont du wadi Saqra en travaux
Gommer les dos d'âne


Tous ceux qui ont emprunté le pont du wadi Saqra, entre le quatrième cercle et Shmeisani (Queen Noor street) en ont fait l'expérience: les grands se cognent la tête contre le toit de la voiture, les moins grands font un bond sur leur siège. Curieux dos d'âne obligent. L'affaissement de la route ne date pas d'hier. Depuis la construction du pont en 1978, des travaux ont été entrepris à plusieurs reprises. On connaît tant bien que mal, à coup de joutes d'asphalte, l'étrange dépression qui se faisait jour au beau milieu de l'édifice. Cette fois, la municipalité d'Amman a ordonné la réfection totale de la chaussée. Les pelleteuses des travaux publics ont commencé à creuser une partie de la route, il y a quelques jours. «Nous refaisons entièrement le revêtement, en mettant de la terre et des gravats sur une épaisseur de 30 centimètres», explique M. Kamal Jalouqa, responsable de l'urbanisme à la mairie. L'idée étant de rendre le sol plus compact. «Il y a aucun signe d'affaissement de terrain», précise-t-il, à l'adresse de ceux qui regardent avec anxiété les quelque 30 mètres de dénivellation entre le pont et le wadi Saqra. «La première tranche de travaux devrait être achevée dans deux semaines, et la route sera de nouveau entièrement praticable au début du mois de mai», promet M. Jalouqa. (A.R.)

Les clubs de culturisme se multiplient à Amman
Des haltères pour développer l'ego

Mens sana in corpore sano. Si la puissance du cerveau se mesure au galbe du muscle, la piscine de Sports city ferait figure de Panthéon de la matière grise. Un creuseur de culturistes. On y compte plus les hercules montacius veans exhiber des biceps misants sculptés dans le roc, des pectoraux gonflés comme des chambres à air et de très gros abdominaux en tablettes de chocolat.

Le phénomène Rambo ferait-il de émules? En tout cas, il fait des émules. «J'aime le genre muscle, avec des épaulures carrees et un ventre plat, bien bâti», avoue Randa, 25 ans. On bâtit donc, et en béton s'il vous plaît. Haro sur les attendrissants abdomens rebondis et les poignées d'amour, corolleurs du hommes et de l'huile d'olive. Selon Mahmoud Jarashéh, vice-président de la fédération jordanienne de body building, 20 nouveaux clubs ont ouvert ces deux dernières années à Amman, où l'on compte en tout une cinquantaine d'établissements pour le développement du muscle.

Tel le club Noor, inauguré à djebel Hussein, il y a trois mois. Soixante candidats à la turgescence viennent s'y entraîner quotidiennement. Pousser, tirer, hisser, soutenir, allonger, repos. A la différence de la gymnastique de papa, le body-building requiert toute une gamme d'appareils en acier bardés de sangles, de poignées, de ressorts et de compteurs, pour travailler chaque muscle individuellement. On s'attend presque à y trouver une chaise électrique, une roue à carteler ou une guillotine.

Mais point. Ici, la torture est librement consentie, selon le principe ancestral: «Il faut souffrir pour être beau». Et souffrir souvent. Mahmoud Jarashéh, 41 ans, qui collectionne les t-shirts, annonce la couleur: «Pendant les trois mois précédant une compétition, je prends un congé pour pouvoir m'entraîner six heures par jour. En temps normal,

Amman maintient ses subventions

«La politique de subventions des autorités jordanienes aux produits alimentaires de première nécessité sera maintenue.» Le ministre jordanien des Finances, M. Hanna Audeh, a rompu samedi le silence qui entourait les négociations entre le gouvernement et le Fonds monétaire international (FMI).

Ce premier commentaire officiel, depuis le début des discussions le 28 mars dernier, marque la volonté d'Amman de limiter les mesures d'austérité économiques vraisemblablement prochaines par le FMI. Mesures en contrepartie desquelles le Fonds monétaire pourrait accorder un crédit de 100 millions de dollars à la Jordanie pour aider à faire face à sa dette.

M. Hanna Audeh a déclaré pour sa part que «les négociations ne concernent pas la question des subventions alimentaires, dont l'enveloppe est estimée cette année à plus de 110 millions de dollars.

M. Audeh a également écarté avec la même fermeté toute éventualité de dépréciation du dinar jordanien.

Ils sont plus de 100.000 à avoir quitté leurs maisons, détruites par les torrents de pluie. Sans abri, ils sont aussi sans travail: les inondations ont ravagé plusieurs centaines de champs agricoles et décompté les troupeaux de bétail dans les gouvernorats de Hadramaut, Al-Mahrah et Shabwa, dans le centre du Sud-Yémen.

Dans la seule ville de Sayoun, il y a environ 10.000 familles détruites par les pluies de la vallée de Hadramaut, 122 maisons se sont effondrées, 172 autres menacent de s'écrouler et 48 bâtiments publics, dont des écoles et des dispensaires, ont été plus ou moins endommagés. Le réseau d'eau potable et les câbles électriques ont été rompus par la violence des torrents. La ville entière pourrait être rayée

de la carte si le barrage qui la protège, et qui est déjà partiellement détruit, venait à céder. Après la destruction de l'habitat, les pluies attaquent le relief. Les fissures et les crevasses se multiplient dans les zones montagneuses. Face aux menaces d'éboulements, les autorités font évacuer les villes à flanc de montagne, notamment dans la vallée de Hadramaut, au bord de l'océan Indien.

Les sinistres, qui augmentent de jour en jour, restent difficiles à dénombrer et à localiser. Les secours d'urgence en sont d'autant plus compliqués. Dans la région d'Al-Mahrah, près de 20.000 bédouins sont encerclés par les eaux et ne peuvent être ravitaillés en vivres et médicaments que par hélicoptère.

Plusieurs pays se sont mobilisés pour assister les sinistres, notamment l'Arabie saoudite, le Koweit, les Emirats Arabes Unis, le Yémen du nord, le sultanat d'Oman, la Grande-Bretagne, la France, ainsi que la FAO (Food Aid Organisation). (d'après agences)

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Le Dr. Jean Renoir, avec Michel Simon, Marcelle Chantal, Charles Granval et Jean Daste (1932).

Un libraire parisien sauve un clochard de la noyade et plein de bonnes intentions, décide de l'héberger. Le rescup va vite bouleverter la vie bien ordonnée de son bienfaiteur.

Le Dr. Qawar estime que l'organisme reste habitué à sa ration de calories et d'exercice.

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Le Dr

An American stops in Amman while on a Trans-Med Bike Tour

A wandering dervish in a track suit

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Driving down the King's Highway over the next few days, you may pass a small figure crouched over a bicycle, wobbling up the slopes of Wadi Mujib and coasting down them, with 40 kilogrammes of baggage looming behind him like the plumage of some strange bird heading south to the waters of the Red Sea. If you do, stop and talk to him. For Robert Guzman, a 37-year-old Mexican-American migrant, sportsman, writer and seeker after truth, is an interesting man.

He has been cycling for three years, inching his way round the Mediterranean on his battered old, heavy-framed bicycle, on what he calls the Trans-Med Bike Tour, sponsored by British Airways. Starting in Britain and moving down to Spain in 1986, he rounded the Iberian peninsula and then spent six months in Barcelona regathering strength and resources. In 1987, he crossed France, Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece before wintering in Athens. Next year followed the Greek islands, Thrace and looping Turkish coastline before crossing over the Syrian border and into the Arab World. On 1989's agenda is a leisurely trip down to Aqaba, the boat to Nweibeh, round the coast of Sinai and another six month pit stop in

Cairo. Final destination is Casablanca, but when asked to hazard a date he replies, "Allahu 'alam" (God knows best) — like many seasoned travellers, he feels that computation is next to presumption.

"The trip has its own life, and I'm really no more than its agent," he says, as if talking about a figure of authority. For Guzman, his trip is a mission, a teacher and a friend. Despite lack of fund, a fair physique and the wear and tear of three years on the road, he is sure of pursuing his journey to the end — "I'd be too afraid not to finish it now." All the obstacles put in his way have only served to make him more certain of what he is doing. "I'm not a very good cyclist" — at a skinny 5 foot 8, and looking his 37 years, Guzman is nobody's idea of a strapping athlete — "and when I started I used to get sick a lot. The bike is 15 years old," he added. But despite the rugged mountains and rough coastal roads that skirt the edge of the Mediterranean, he averages one puncture every 1000 miles.

Unattached

Of course, an Odyssey such as this can be emotionally as well as physically exhausting. The strain of having no ties and not being close to anyone for three years takes its toll, he admits. But Guzman is resigned to his fate

"the trip holds me to one condition — that I have nothing to lose. Every time I seem to be getting involved — and maybe think about travelling with someone — something happens. I lose my traveller's cheques or something." He describes how he broke his arm in Greece. "I was a hundred yards away from the boat to Athens and thinking 'I must find a place, I must find a job, will my friends be there?' instead of thinking about what had just happened" — the end of his second year on the bike — "and appreciating it. The trip was angry with me." And so he slipped and fell and broke his arm in a very mundane accident.

"My triumphant entry into Athens was in the back of a taxi with a crazy driver. I was frightened and hurtling." But fate took another twist, this time the good "he took me down to the casualty ward of a hospital and waited for me until my arm was set. Both he and the doctors refused to accept any money."

Guzman has found his trip easier this year than in the two previous ones, largely because of the attitudes of the people. I think my worst time was in Italy — it was the end of fall, and very cold although you get used to that. But I was sleeping out all the time because the hotels were too expensive, and I guess I showed it after a time. Virtually my only contact with civilisation

was brushing my teeth in the morning and people began to treat me like a bum — "What do you want?", "How much did you take?", "did you pay for that?", "are you sure?"

"But the deeper into the Muslim world you go, the easier everything gets, the more people accept you." Guzman feels under special protection here — "Italy gives you the bare minimum — in Syria and Jordan you are a honoured guest." Three weeks ago he was near Nabeq in Syria in the early evening. The rain was so strong that he had been stopped three times during the day, the road was thick with mud, and then his bike got a puncture, leaving him stuck. "God help me" I thought, and five minutes later a guy came up on his motorcycle and "asked me if I'd like to stay at his house for the night."

Guzman is no stranger to the Middle East, having taught English for five years in Saudi Arabia. Which is the trade he supports himself with during his resting stages. During his time there, he went out of his way to make friends with Arabs and began to feel an affinity with the culture which he feels is based on his own Mexican, and therefore Hispanic, heritage — "we feel the dark, the big issues of life and death, which go beyond the hedonism and materialism of other Mediterranean countries."

"I always remember seeing on

the wall of a toilet in Greece what an Italian had written 'I love only nature and beautiful women' Underneath, in a clear hand, a Spaniard had replied 'only an Italian can write similar stupidities.' That said it for me."

Souls of nations, lie untouched

Guzman is necessarily a philosopher. "Knowledge of the ways of men, the good in them and the bad" is forced upon him as it was upon Odysseus. His slow progress on the bike, panting and sweating his way up and down the contours of a landscape, sleeping and eating where he can and mixing with whoever will mix with him, gives him both the particular and the universal. If he compares Spain with Syria, it is not via books, concepts or sparkling conversation but by the personal experience of having ridden through dozens of towns, villages and come across hundreds of people in both countries. He feels that his ground level view makes him a participant in what he observes — "when you're on a bike, and you pass through a village, for a few minutes you're one of them." His minute experience has convinced him that the peoples of the Mediterranean are still tremendously different from each other, and dismisses the idea that mass media and world monoculture have destroyed each region's peculiar character. "These things are only the froth on

surface — the deep, the soul of nations, lies untouched."

The book he is writing is a comparison of Mediterranean cultures, delving into their past in an attempt to throw light on what is going on now, and he supplements his travels with general reading on the countries he passes through. He is currently reading Phillip Hitti's "History of the Arabs," which he travelled specially to Aleppo to buy, and was full of the idea of Protestantism forming Europe. His earlier experience with V.S. Naipul's "Among the Believers," however, was not so fruitful.

No sympathy, no understanding

"I found it very informative, but I had to reject what he said. How can you write about a people devoid of any sympathy for them? I felt he had no understanding."

Guzman is interested in almost anything, and unlike his sedentary counterparts, seems to have no hierarchy or categorisation of topics when he talks. His conversation ranged in two hours over the differences between dramatic Italian and analytical French journalism — "they try so hard to be perfect it's boring," that mass media and world monoculture have destroyed each region's peculiar character. "These things are only the froth on

mountain passes, the student revolts of the 1960's, the Irishness of North West Spain, the Devil, trust, James Dean and Macedonians in Detroit.

But, paradoxically, the most amazing thing about Guzman is that he is totally ordinary. He speaks softly and in an odd hotch-potch of accents, stopping sometimes to search for the right word.

"I was introduced in Syria to the concept of *talab al ilm*, and realised at once that that's how the Arabs see me." (The "seekers of knowledge," have for thousands of years been a prominent part of spiritual life in the Middle East, involving penniless travel by the seeker begging alms or working along the way for years and years, and often related to scholarly work of one kind or another. The seeker hoped to gain spiritual fulfillment by the experience gained on his travels). "That's the reason why in Europe I was often treated with suspicion whereas here perfectly ordinary people, some of whom have never been further than the nearest large town themselves, understand what I am doing." In another age, Robert Guzman might have been called a wandering dervish.

So if you see a figure dawdling along the road down to Aqaba on his bike, or sitting under a tree in his track suit, taking tea with some villagers, stop and talk to him. There's more to him than meets the eye.



Brazil's Cardinal is proud to be called subversive

By Stephen Powell
Reuter

SAO PAULO — In a country with some of the world's worst social inequalities, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, Brazil's most eminent exponent of the theology of liberation, says he is proud to be called subversive.

Liberation theology is a doctrine which gives priority to working with the poor and oppressed but which stirs deep anxieties among conservatives.

The Vatican of Pope John Paul II has never warmed to liberation theology and the 67-year-old archbishop, known here as Dom Paulo, has just been shorn of half of his flock, by a Vatican decree announced March 15.

His archdiocese of Sao Paulo, formerly one of the biggest in the world, was effectively halved by the creation of four new satellite dioceses each with their own bishop — a move seen by many commentators as another conservative advance by the Vatican.

In Brazil, a nation presided over by a political elite, conservatives regularly denounce the Roman Catholic Church as a Communist organisation.

A leading spokesman of the right, presidential candidate Ronald Calado, savaged the church in a recent newspaper interview.

He said it "uses tactics of fomenting guerrilla war, (land) invasions, class struggle and places Jesus Christ at the disposal of Karl Marx, saying that the promised land is Cuba and the messiah is Fidel Castro."

Earlier this year conservative newspapers mounted a press campaign against the cardinal because he corresponded with the Cuban leader. Arns responded that he maintained contacts with several heads of state.

Campaigns for human rights

Known for his fearless campaigning for human rights during the 1964-85 military dictatorship, Arns has long had to live with taunts that he is a subversive or a Communist.

"To call us subversive is a badge of honour," he said at an Easter news conference, "because it enables the people to know that subversives — and Jesus was one — help the poorest, the weakest and want above all for everyone to be well, not just a few."

Arns has not entered into the

controversy over the division of his archdiocese, which has taken out of his control about 1,000 of the city's squallid shantytowns but still leaves him with one of the world's largest.

"The division has already been amply explained as being a natural phenomenon," he said at his news conference. "Every time that there is a very large number of Christians, the work also increases and it is normal for there to be a division."

But his spokesman, Father Sergio Calixto Valverde, told interviewers that there was some truth in the interpretation that the division was intended to clip the wings of Brazil's progressive church.

The closest Arns comes to criticising the Vatican is to say that many people feel there should have been more consultation.

"There was no consultation. The people were not consulted, the priests were not consulted," said Father Manoel Godoy, one of about 300 laymen and priests who took part in a protest fast on March 22.

Before the split Arns had an area encompassing 395 parishes with a population of 14.5 million. Today he has 241 parishes with about 7.6 million people.

To work with the people

Arns, whose warm eyes twinkle benignly behind his spectacles, denied suggestions that the bishops appointed to the four new dioceses were conservative and added: "All have promised to work with the people."

Church liberals said that in Brazil as a whole the Vatican had been working steadily to increase the influence of conservatives. They said not one progressive bishop had been appointed in the country in the past eight years.

Some of Brazil's progressive clergy have had their differences with Pope John Paul II.

Last September Spanish-born bishop Pedro Casaldaliga, a leading champion of landless peasants in central Brazil, received a letter from Rome telling him to remain strictly faithful to the church's teachings.

The most celebrated case was in 1985, when the Pope condemned one of Arns's former pupils, Father Leonardo Boff, to a year's silence because of his radical views on liberation theology.

Arns's concern for the poor comes through again and again in

opinions on a range of matters, including Third World debt.

Brazil has the biggest debt in the developing world, \$115 billion, and a central issue in this year's presidential elections is whether it should continue paying a staggering \$14 billion a year to service the debt.

"I have the absolute conviction that we do not owe anything. What we have paid in interest is greater than what we borrowed," the cardinal said at his Easter news conference.

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Seeds of hope for Lima's street children

By Martin Foreman

'Germinal' works with youngsters who live on the streets of Lima, Peru. Germinal is among a new generation of organisations worldwide which recognise that AIDS prevention is a complex issue and it therefore starts by dealing with the young people's emotional and economic needs.

LIMA, Peru — "We met one boy from the provinces who couldn't read or write. He only knew how to get on a bus to come to San Martin Square and how to get a bus back out to the suburbs where his family was now living. He was afraid to go anywhere else in case he got lost and couldn't find his way home again. We never saw him again."

Tito Bracamonte was speaking about one of the many youths he and his colleagues meet in the heart of Lima, Peru.

Perhaps the boy had simply come to look around. But it was more likely that he had heard that this was a place where money could be made from men looking for sex.

In either case the fact that he was illiterate and a newcomer to this sprawling city of six million people made it easy for others to

take advantage of him — exactly the kind of person who Tito Bracamonte hopes to meet.

Bracamonte, a history student in his early 20s, works for Germinal, an organisation which tries to help young people between 13 and 20 who, for one reason or another, find themselves wandering the streets of this South American capital.

It was in order to help these boys — and girls in a similar situation, although they are much more difficult to reach — that Germinal was set up, funded by Ridd Barnen (Save the Children) of Sweden.

Ridd Barnen was speaking about one of the boys turn to prostitution, which at first glance seems to be a short-term solution but is more likely to cause long-term problems, particularly with the risk of sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

Ridd Barnen

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Salma Hamad Al Thani:

Temperamental landscapes

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of paintings by Salma Hamad Al Thani was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on the 2nd of April at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Salma Hamad Al Thani does not claim to be a professional artist, she puts it simply: "To me painting is a hobby I acquired two years ago, but since then it has become a passion and I work at it all the time. I have given up much of my social life to deal solely with art." She is particularly grateful to her Qatari husband, her children and her friends, for being supportive of her new found passion.

Her commitment to art did not go unrewarded, for she has, in so little time, acquired a good sense of design and a spontaneity that gives her works a lighthearted sense of freshness.

It is imperative to mention here that Salma travels constantly; she visits museums and acquires good art books. All this polishes her sense of observation and sensitivity which she lavishes on her canvases, leaving the observer in a state of surprise at how a self taught artist of two years can work on agile compositions that lack neither form nor balance.

Salma paints straight from nature, for which she bears great sentiment. She takes her palette knife and approaches the canvas with assurance transforming the empty space into tumultuous waves and skies. The trunks of trees have a no less movemented

form, textures form a raised impasto. This is found in her painting "Stream" where features of the landscapes are apparent by sway in an uproot of impasto in the manner of Rouault. Green is highlighted with yellow, the brown ground with orange. Her intense colours enhance the mobility and vivacity of the work.

Other landscapes tend to be less tumultuous "Summer Windows" is a more atmospheric painting, its horizontality contributes to its calm.

"Blue Sword" is a mature composition of a violet bridge over a blue sea (reminiscent of the mystery of symbolist colour schemes), with an interesting division of space bent towards abstraction, a horizon line in the depth gives depth and perspective.

"Autumn" has a multitude of shades of green painted flat against a movemented sky. Green and purple plants sway right and left in the foreground picking up that movement. There is a big contrast between the yellow (of the sand) and the grey patch beside it, this she saves with a black outline, thus giving each colour more ascent.

No arrangements

Salma's choice of colour is not studied. She makes no prior arrangement for a colour scheme, instead, she chooses her colours as she proceeds with the painting, always adding or changing according to what she feels the painting needs.

"Neckgrass" is a landscape seen from a window done in the

style of Matisse with a variety of patches of colour, pattern design and a little outlining.

"The Arch" is a large canvas with a movemented tree trunk that forms a superb diagonal thrust within an open space, a seemingly abstract design. It is balanced by the small brushstrokes that fill the lower edge of the canvas.

"Boats and Clouds" is divided into a ratio of 1/3 - 2/3, an ideal division of space (Renaissance). The upper part is covered with a decorative pattern design of highlighted branches. A gray area is superimposed on the dividing section, while the lower part has Salma's favoured movemented trunk going into a frenzy held in check by the pointillist rendering of the foreground.

"Spring" curiously does not have much green in it. The background is pink. A tree in bloom is rendered in pointillistic style with dots of white interspersed by squiggly lines that enhance the fresh rhythms that give spring its prancing lightness. The only detriment to this painting is the heavy green branches that she introduces on the sides.

Salma is much affected by the Qatari landscape that she finds fascinating, especially the antique areas that are being restored. Here she stylises the forms taking only the essential areas, adding haphazardly onto the surface big brushstrokes of a lighter colour. Her still lifes offer well-studied forms which, in spite of being stylised, keep a good observance of volumes. Big frank patches of light highlight the objects and



"Stream," by Salma Hamad Al Thani

sometimes are more of a point of emphasis than the object itself.

"Blue hand" is a detail of a leaf with veins. The way she shades the blue ground with brown at intervals shows her strong sense of observation. It is a close-up of a mature artist and not an amateur.

Her still lifes offer well-studied forms which, in spite of being stylised, keep a good observance of volumes. Big frank patches of light highlight the objects and

tions." They are done hurriedly with a palette knife, their nervous composition exhibits strong thrusts of mixed colour with little depth.

"Reactions 3" bears witness to a mature artist and not an amateur. It is a vertical canvas covered with texture, and a good interaction of intense colours performing a meaningful interplay over

the given space.

An artist of great temperament, with a good sense of pattern and design, Salma Hamad Al Thani holds great potential. Her landscapes as well as her still lifes carry a mark of their own, stylisation is her strength. As for her abstract knifework, she could be advised to go slower and more rationally about it.

Galicia — a forgotten world

By Francisco Conde
The Associated Press

SURRIBAS, Spain — Paulino Fernandez was a reserved, distant man obsessed with his land in this isolated mountain hamlet. Then, one day, the 64-year-old farmer stabbed six neighbours to death before burning himself to death in his farmhouse.

News of the March 7 massacre reverberated nationwide, focusing brief but intense attention on Galicia, a long-ignored, underdeveloped region in Northwestern Spain where only 27 per cent of the population lives in cities.

"It appears clearly to have been an attack of madness," said historian Ramon Villares Paz. "Yet it's a paradigmatic incident, a sort of death cry of a rural society of elderly people with a tightly held conviction that their culture has no future."

"Surribas is isolated, like a majority of villages in Galicia, populated mainly by old people, with problems of communication between them, without any future, without horizons," he said.

Fernandez's violent attack on his unsuspecting neighbours was, Villares Paz said, "more than homicide, an incident that suggests a kind of attempt at collective self-punishment — we have no exit, where can we go? We have no future."

Sometimes called Spain's Ireland because of its Celtic origins, Galicia is a four-province region of Verdant, hilly land, geographically cut off from the rest of the

country by poor communications and a rugged mountain range ringing its eastern flank and its southern border with Portugal.

Since prehistoric times, Galicia has been characterised by a social and economic structure not usual in the rest of Spain — thousands of tiny, isolated but tightly knit hamlets where nearly all the residents peasants owned a small piece of not-so-fertile land.

Subsistence farming remains the norm in much of Galicia's interior today.

"Paulino had been extremely worried about someone taking his land, but he faced no threat of any kind and had normal relations with neighbours," said Sergio Vazquez Yebra, Fernandez's lawyer and mayor of the nearby town of Chantada.

The village is "a world subject to drastic transformations," communist Carlos Luis Rodriguez wrote in *la Voz de Galicia*, the region's leading daily.

"The crime... is in part an expression of the daily dramas of smokestack industries through which they shatter our ideal of the Buñol village," Rodriguez wrote.

"The Galician village is a genuine pressure cooker where all kinds of conflicts simmer over a low fire and where the modern and the ancestral crash into each other as if upon a breakwater," he said.

Between 1950 and 1970, the region of 3 million people underwent a rapid but incomplete industrialisation, mainly involving shipbuilding and steel plants on the northern and western Atlantic coasts.



"It appears clearly to have been an attack of madness." Yet it's a paradigmatic incident, a sort of death cry of a rural society of elderly people with a tightly held conviction that their culture has no future.

Smokestack industries

But more than 20,000 high-paying jobs were lost in these smokestack industries through which they shatter our ideal of the Buñol village," Rodriguez wrote.

Galicia contributes less than 6 per cent to Spain's gross national product, and agriculture still dominates the local economy.

Potatoes, corn, grapes and cabbage are the principal crops, and the dairy industry provides 25 per cent of Spain's milk. But the small farms are not productive, employing three times as many people as the national norm to produce less.

There are more farm workers

people with a tightly held conviction that their culture has no future.

smokestack industries

— 460,000 — in Galicia than in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland or the Netherlands, according to ministry of agriculture figures.

Spain's entry two years ago into the 12-nation European Economic Community (EEC) sparked some hope of an economic regeneration for the region.

But Santiago de Compostela's University economics Professor Alberto Meixide said nothing great has happened yet.

"On the one hand, the EEC quota in its agricultural programme represent a certain guarantee for the sale of farmers' products," he said. "But on the other hand, many dairy farmers had to cut back planned production increases due to EEC plans to reduce their already-bloated

stocks."

Fernandez's obsession with his land rang true to local residents' fabled ties to the earth and their legendary longing for it after they had immigrated to the western hemisphere.

An estimated 1 million Galicians, haunted by the specter of a dark future, have left Spain this

Vazquez Yebra said.

PROGRAMMER, ANALYST & DESIGNER

A vacancy exists in Saudi Arabia for the above position. Applicants should have complete knowledge of the following:

1. Must have 3 - 5 years experience on IBM PC.

2. Must have knowledge of following languages;

a) Cobol

b) DBase III+

c) Multi-users, DOS operations, designing, programming as well as being familiar with the Network Environment.

3. Experience as an analyst in Finance, Marketing and Administrative jobs a necessity.

4. Knowledge of ORACLE, C mandatory, together with Assembly and Arabinization.

The company offers a complete expatriate package to the qualified candidate.

Interested parties please send C.V. to:

M.I.S. Manager,
P.O. Box 925871,
Amman, Jordan

Focus on People

She has the whole world in her hands

By Mariam M. Shahin

This week Focus on People tells Um Ibrahim about how she became an economic asset to her family and how she enabled other women in Jordan to do the same.

AS she talks Um Ibrahim irons embroidered pieces of cloth. Her iron board is a piece of wood on the floor. At 60 she is an agile mother of eight. Her three room workshop is filled to the ceiling with shelves of embroidered burlap and endless boxes of DMC thread. An Arab-American artist who has come to buy embroidered cushions from her workshop is about to leave with four cushion covers under his arm. "Isn't she wonderful, such an active woman, and at her age! She is preserving our past, people in the States will love these," Um Ibrahim just smiles as he walks out wishing her a "nice day."

For Um Ibrahim life has not been full of too many nice days. A native of Beit Dajan — Jaffa, she and her family moved to Jordan in 1958, after a ten year stay in Nablus. Her husband, Abu Ibrahim, was an Arabic and mathematics teacher, first in Beit Dajan, then Nablus, and after coming to Amman he taught at the Islamic College and later on at government schools. "For twenty years I raised my eight children (four girls and four boys), while Abu Ibrahim was out sole wage earner. They were a hard twenty years. We moved a lot and there never seemed to be quite enough to go around. The children's education has always been a priority for me. I insisted on putting them into nursery schools and private schools, that was a lot for eight children on a teacher's salary. But it paid off, every moment of it, I'm very proud of my children."

Um Ibrahim feels very strongly about the education of her daughters in particular. She points out that she was one of the few girls in her village who had the privilege of learning how to read and write. This was at a time when literacy of women in the Middle East and world-wide was minimal when compared to today's standards. She asserts that her four daughters, who received university degrees in physics, computer science and administration, were instrumental in encouraging her to make the embroidery workshop her livelihood. "Today they give me both moral and financial support, they are my backbone in every sense."

It was not until the early 1970's that the traditional handicraft of embroidery was thought of as commercially viable. A group of women, associated with the Aidi Handicraft Centre hired village women to repair old dresses and to copy the traditional design of the Bethlehem dress.

"Then came the opportunity we had been waiting for. The Royal Jordanian airline — Alia at the time — made a very large order of embroidered coasters and hand towels. The order was in the amount of 17,000 pieces. I made 2,500 coasters on my own, Mariam Abu Laban, Leila Jeres and Bassima Khaleel were also actively involved. For all of us who had begun to think of traditional embroidery, as a channel to become entrepreneurs, this commercial success marked the beginning of a breakthrough.

The women who did most of the actual work were becoming aware that they could improve their economic condition by working in this field. An embroidered dress receives an average of JD 8 to 10 for every cushion."

It takes her an average of two weeks to finish embroidering a cushion."

"Many women were afraid that their eyesight would be weakened as a result of such work. However, those who want to will will. I've been embroidering for 40 years and my eyes are fine," she said as her big, brown, warm eyes shone through her thick spectacles.

Almost every day of the week between 7-7:30 a.m. women from camps all over Amman, Jabel Taj, Jabel Nuqra, and Jabel Al Akhdar come to her modest workshop in a side street in the Haouz area of Jabel Amman. They either bring pieces of embroidery that they have completed or Um Ibrahim gives them prepared work. "Clients often tell us what they want in terms of colour, schemes and the size of the cushions and so forth, but often the girls come up with beautiful designs of their own. In other words in terms of design and colour schemes we always have new blood in our work."

There are anywhere from 150 to 200 women who deal with Um Ibrahim on a regular basis. Whether married or single they are wage earners and make significant contributions to the welfare of their families. "The older generation of women are more willing than the young to work on pieces of embroidery. They have more patience and greater knowledge of traditional designs. However, many young women are not finding employment these days or feel they can not make due on the meager salaries they earn."

Um Ibrahim has no time to "socialise," her work and her 16 grandchildren leave no time for that. She never sleeps before midnight and is up at six every morning. She suffers from rheumatism, but says she has no time to go to the doctor. When will she stop working then? "When my body stops following orders."

JOB OPPORTUNITY

An International Jordanian firm is seeking to recruit dynamic, presentable young men with the following requirements:

- 1- Education: University degree from a recognised institution, Major in Marketing, Business Administration, or Economics.
- 2- Languages: Very good command of the English language, and any other foreign language is advantageous.
- 3- Age: Between 24-28 years.
- 4- Nationality: Jordanian.

The job offered is challenging and might entail, in future, work outside Jordan. Those who are accepted will undergo an intensive formal and on the job training programme designed especially for that job.

If interested, please send your Curriculum Vitae to the following address, not later than the 13th, of April 1989.

Director Personnel Affairs,
P.O. Box 3148
Amman - Jordan.

French Cultural Centre

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:

- French language courses for adults (all levels)
- Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
- Arabic language courses for foreigners
- Music courses (Piano - Flute - Guitare - Saxophone)
- Arts courses for women: (Art of Flower Making, Silk Painting, Ceramics, Painting on glass).

The registration will last on Thursday Apr. 6, 1989 and the course will start on Saturday Apr. 8, until Apr. 22, 1989.

For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445, Amman.

produced two enzymes to test the method, as well as an enzyme that helps make Melanin, Erwin said during the American Cancer Society's annual seminar for scientists.

Within 12, the privately held company hopes to conduct field-work. Tobacco genetically engineered to produce the anti-cancer drug, interferon-2 and serum albumin, a major protein in blood that is used as a supplement in transfusions.

Erwin said other potential products of genetically altered tobacco include an insecticide, a substance that allows the time-release of flavours in foods and fragrances in perfumes, enzymes to help make paper and reduce cholesterol levels in foods, and other cancer drugs such as inter-

feron and vincristine.

Biosource genetics used tobacco plants because they are well-understood, easily manipulated and serve as plant researchers' equivalent of the laboratory mouse, Erwin said. The company was considering the same method to genetically alter pepper, potato, and tomato plants, he added.

The company's effort to convert tobacco plants into living factories for the cheap mass production of industrial chemicals, medicines and cosmetics drew criticism from an environmental group. But it also garnered interest from a tobacco growers group and cautious praise from the former director of the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr., who left NCI last year to become physician-in-chief at New York's memorial Sloan-Kettering cancer MTT is really kind of cute."

"It's a very interesting idea," DeVita said. "It sounds too good to be true, but looks real enough to pursue."

Andrew Kimbrell, attorney and policy director for the anti-biotechnology foundation on economic treads, said a substance sprayed on tobacco plants to profoundly change what they produce "could go to other plants with results unknown. We have real concerns about what other plants it might affect."

Indoor experiments

Experiments so far have been performed indoors, where tobacco plants and cells successfully

Saudis appear ready to give backing to Iraq and Egypt

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia appears to have taken a strategic decision to assist the debt-laden economies of Iraq and Egypt, bankers in the Gulf said Wednesday.

But one senior banker cautioned against expecting fast results.

"Do not expect anything right now, immediately. These things take years and Egypt's economy is in bad shape," he said.

The bankers said King Fahd appeared to have given the green light to banks and businessmen in Saudi Arabia in remarks he made to the weekly cabinet meeting in Riyadh Monday night.

The king said after visiting Iraq and Egypt last week both countries were witnessing major positive changes. He said Egypt was

experiencing an industrial renaissance "on the right track."

Diplomats and bankers saw his remarks as approval for banks and investors to help Egypt after an Arab boycott over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, and to fund reconstruction projects in Iraq after last August's ceasefire in its war with Iran.

"To help Iraq and now Egypt is a strategic investment and part of Saudi Arabia's long-term policy," one Gulf-based banker commented.

A banker suggested Riyadh might arrange soft loans for Cairo

and encourage the import of Egyptian goods.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is currently in Washington for talks with U.S. officials and the International Monetary Fund party focused on Egypt's need for early assistance.

Diplomats in the region said Mubarak had pressed Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states to try to meet some of Egypt's immediate cash needs, which would enable it to repay overdue debts and regain international creditworthiness.

Egypt is currently burdened with a \$43 billion foreign debt.

The Saudi government-controlled Al Yamamah magazine said Saudi-Egyptian talks had focused on forging economic ties that

III laid to rest

New Islamic bank in Jordan to start operations in summer

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced Wednesday that the new National Islamic Bank (NIB) will have a JD 7 million capital and that it will commence operations in the coming two to three months.

The announcement noted that the NIB will serve as a successor to the Islamic Investment House (IIIH) and referred to two earlier decisions in December 1988 and March 1989 concerning the transformation.

It said that the NIB will operate in accordance with Islamic law and will be governed by a seven-member board of directors two of whom will represent the CBJ.

According to the announce-

ment, the main shareholders of the new entity will be: The Jordan Bank Limited, the Jordan Engineers Association, the Orphans' Fund and the Queen Alia Social Welfare.

The announcement said that upon recommendation from the committee, the CBJ has provided a loan to the new bank to handle the earlier losses incurred by the IIIH and that the CBJ will continue to provide assistance to the NIB to help it collect dues and loans offered by the IIIH to the public.

Central banks and dealers battle over dollar's level

NEW YORK (R) — Central banks and currency traders are haggling over the appropriate level for the dollar as they wait for a slowdown in the U.S. economy and a drop in American interest rates to slow its rise.

The dollar's rally has been temporarily halted amid signs of a cooling U.S. economy, the Bank of Japan's intervention and a warning from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial democracies that further strength in the currency will be opposed, dealers said.

"The fight will continue" between central banks and market participants, said Liliana Nealon, senior dealer at Union Bank of Switzerland. "The dollar will continue to rise and they (the G-7) will have to adjust the range. It's a matter of time."

The dollar has been in heavy global demand due to firm U.S. interest rates — which enhance the value of dollar-denominated assets — and a persistent flow of direct foreign investment into the United States.

"Central banks have to sell dollars if they don't want it to rise further," said a dealer at a New

York money centre bank. "Over a period, supply and demand sets the dollar's level. That is the market fundamental."

Central banks dumped over \$10 billion on the market last summer to brake the dollar's rally, dealers said. Last autumn the banks bought some \$10 billion to stop the dollar's steep fall, which came amid doubt that president-elect Bush could cut the massive federal budget deficit.

The Federal Reserve launched an unusual attack on the dollar last Thursday, buying yen for the first time in more than three years. The Bank of Japan mimicked the action Monday, also a first since November 1985, dealers said.

The intervention worked. The Bank of Japan underscored the G-7 warning and the dollar fell more than two pennies and one yen. It dropped Monday to 1,375 marks from 1,397, and to 131.75 yen from 132.75.

But dealers wonder how long the dollar can be kept down as the central banks' dollar sales — though packing a strong psychological punch — have been light so far.

The dollar will face tougher uphill resistance if the G-7 can agree on raising interest rates in West Germany and Japan, said Robert White, foreign exchange manager at First Interstate Bank of Los Angeles.

And many dealers believe central banks will win any contest of wills against the dollar.

"The market will test a higher dollar. However, central banks will win overall, as the track record shows," said Peter Gloyne, senior dealer at First National Bank of Chicago.

While central banks must continue intervening to curb the steady commercial demand for the dollar, dealers said, the U.S. economy's future moves could end such a stalemate. If the domestic economy slows without causing a recession, domestic interest rates — and thus the dollar — could fall.

"If the (U.S.) economy slows down, the dollar will come near a turning point," said Shigeru Tokunaga, foreign exchange manager at Fuji Bank's New York branch.

World Bank, IMF push Brady plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush's plan to reduce the Third World's debt won key endorsements Tuesday from the two international agencies expected to implement the strategy. Officials from the 151-nation International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank

both pledged quick action to speed debt relief to struggling nations in the developing world. Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, and Barber Conable, president of the World Bank, said they recognised the need for urgency in dealing with the debt crisis. Conable said that any delay "could be devastating" because of the expectations created by the Bush administration's proposals for reducing the Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt.

In a speech at the final session of the spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Conable said the global bank had created a joint task force to work with the IMF to speed implementation of the new debt-relief programme.

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Israel turns to capitalism to ease \$26b debt burden

TEL AVIV (R) — Some states may shrink at the thought of being bought out by foreigners, but Israel is waiting with open arms for cash and knowhow from foreign investors.

The Jewish state plans to sell off about 20 state-owned companies, including Israel Aircraft Industries and El Al Airlines, in a move signalling a new pragmatism in economic policy, government officials and analysts say.

"What Israel needs is less government interference and I be-

lieve the only chance is to integrate with international markets and pull in multinational companies," said Adi Amorai, who until recently was deputy finance minister in charge of privatisation.

Ironically, the privatisation drive is spearheaded by Finance Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour party which built Israel on austere socialist principles in 1948.

Nowadays he tells visitors: "To distribute money as a socialist, one must raise it as a capitalist," If successful, the scheme will

help Israel to pay off foreign debts of more than \$25.5 billion, owed mainly to the United States, and give its economy a new face.

Four of the country's 10 largest companies are state-owned firms due for privatisation.

Revenue from 159 state-owned companies in 1987, the last year for which results are available, was \$7.6 billion or 23 per cent of the gross domestic product. They accounted for 16 per cent of exports and employed five per cent of the workforce.

The government is training its sights on a specific type of foreign investment.

"We are not just looking for banks to put money in the companies. We want investors in related fields who will bring special know-how to develop our firms," said Zeev Raffa, head of the finance ministry team coordinating the sales.

Israel's privatisation programme, drawn up by the U.S.-based First Boston Corp. Investment Bank, was presented in April 1988.

It calls for the sale as soon as possible of three firms — Israel Chemicals Ltd., Oil Refineries Ltd., and Elta Electronics Industries, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI).

Business sources said IAI would report a \$15 million loss

for 1988 after losing \$96.8 million in 1987.

Shares in IAI, Israel's largest defence contractor, would be floated on the Tel Aviv and foreign stock exchanges in a few years, the sources said.

Foreign investment in Israel's defence industries is not unprecedented, but due to its sensitivity, First Boston proposed the government retain a majority stake in Elta and proprietary rights over marketing information about its products.

Although local investment will be relatively small, the treasury plans eventually to float equity in Bezek, the national telecommunications company, and the Israel Electric Corp. on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in deals worth more than \$100 million, far bigger than any share offer it has handled.

The stock exchange's deputy managing director, Natan Shulid, believes blue-chip companies on the exchange will attract institutional investors who have ignored the local market.

The government will also have to amend laws to facilitate public offers on foreign exchanges, lower taxes for local shareholders, restructure companies and in some cases reduce its own return to attract outside investors.

complete and proved how complicated privatisation could be.

The uprising factor

More daunting than the slow progress, due in part to the 15-month Palestinian uprising, or the threat of the Arab Boycott of Israel, are bureaucratic hassles and delays by ministers who have handed out jobs in state firms as political patronage.

El Al, another candidate for privatisation, will report a profit for the third consecutive year in 1988.

But the airline must first start to pay off debts of \$300 million, reach a labour accord and end a five-year-old temporary receivership before a share sell-off can go ahead, banking sources said.

Israel's first major deal — the \$95 million sale last August of its 25 per cent stake in Paz Oil Co. Ltd. to Australian businessman Jack Liberman — took years to attract outside investors.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, April 5, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	85.1	85.8
U.S. dollar	536.0	542.0	408.3	413.3		
Pound Sterling	912.7	923.7	254.4	256.8		
Deutschmark	286.9	289.9	84.3	85.1		
Swiss franc	527.3	531.6	39.1	39.5	157.1	158.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6985/95	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1895/05	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.8740/47	912.7	Swiss francs
	2.1125/35	131.60/70	Belgian francs
	1.6411/27	1374/1375	French francs
	39.21/24	131.60/70	Italian lire
	6.3220/70	6.3740/90	Japanese yen
	131.60/70	6.8040/90	Norwegian crowns
	7.2825/75	7.2825/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	384.50/385.00	384.50/385.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares continued a recovery from afternoon lows as investors sought bargains. The All Ordinaries index fell 8.4 points to 1,425.00.

TOKYO — Share prices finished slightly easier overall in active trade but the narrowly based Nikkei index firmed 48.54 points to its sixth straight record close of 33,360.79. Last-minute buying was mostly index-linked.

HONG KONG — Market closed for holiday.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed lower across the board due to lack of buying support and widespread profit-taking. Trading was moderately active. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.39 to 1,191.26.

BOMBAY — Share prices recovered after a shaky start to close mixed in heavy trading. In textiles, Century rallied 60 rupees to 1,840. Baroda Rayon rose 3.75 to 361.25.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed higher as optimism about the latest string of positive corporate results outweighed earlier concern that domestic interest rates could rise. The DAX index closed at 1,348.80 points, up 9.01.

ZURICH — Shares closed generally steady to slightly higher in moderately active trading. The All-Share index rose 3.7 to 1,009.2.

PARIS — Prices ended firm, with investors more confident after the Washington G-7 meeting and volumes higher than in recent weeks.

LONDON — Prices were weaker in dull afternoon business, with traders reluctant to open large new speculative positions on the last day of the U.K. financial year. At 1508 GMT the FTSE index was down 4.3 at 2,078.5.

NEW YORK — Blue chips kept a firm bias in late-morning trading but activity was concentrated in technology and takeover stocks. A soft dollar and lower bond prices discouraged trading. The Dow was up four at 2,302.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Celtic beats Liverpool 5-3 in Dubai

DUBAI (AP) — Glasgow Celtic of Scotland defeated England's Liverpool 5-3 on penalties to win the Dubai Champion's Cup after scores were 1-1 at the final whistle. Celtic led 1-0 at half-time through a 12th minute goal by skipper Mark McGee. Liverpool, paced by international forward John Barnes and skipper Ronnie Whelan, fought their way back into the game with some crisp passing. John Alridge scored the equaliser in the 73rd with a scoring shot that sent Celtic goalie Pat Bonner diving in vain. Shots by Andy Walker and Lex Baillie put Celtic a decisive two goals up in the penalty shoot-out. The break-paced match was watched by a crowd of 7,000 at the Al Maktoum stadium. The Dubai Cup match is contested by the English and Scottish league champions. It was last played in 1987, when Glasgow Rangers beat Everton on penalties.

Another Canadian admits steroid use

TORONTO (R) — Retired Canadian sprinter Cheryl Thibedeau Tuesday said she had been injected with anabolic steroids by Ben Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, and doctor, George (Mario) Astaphan. Thibedeau told the Canadian inquiry into drug use in amateur sport that she had been injected with the performance-enhancing drugs more than 50 times a year before the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Thibedeau said she was inoculated with a thick, milky white substance called estragol, also known as furazabol, by Astaphan, the team doctor.

Graf and Navratilova advance

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (R) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf coasted through her second-round match while second-seeded Martina Navratilova struggled Tuesday in a \$300,000 women's tennis tournament. Graf, seeking her third title here, had trouble adjusting her powerful groundstrokes to the slow clay court but the West German still defeated South African Ros Fairbank 6-4, 6-3. Navratilova, the defending champion and three-time winner, had her hands full with Laura Gideemeister of Peru in the first two sets before triumphing 6-4, 4-6, 6-0. Third-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States withdrew because of a groin pull which she suffered last week. She was replaced by Andrea Holikova of Czechoslovakia, the highest ranked loser from the qualifying rounds. Fourth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union and seventh-seeded Arantxa Sanchez of Spain were easy second round winners, while Jane Popisilova of Czechoslovakia upset 12th-seeded Raffaella Reggi of Italy 7-5, 6-4.

EEC seeks to make a name at Olympic games

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — If the EEC commission has its way, athletes from the 12 community nations may display the EEC colours — 12 gold stars in a field of royal blue — alongside their national ones at the 1992 winter and summer Olympic games. The idea of giving the European Economic Community some profile at the Olympics was discussed Tuesday by EEC commission President Jacques Delors and organizers of the winter games at Albertville, France, and the summer games at Barcelona.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 872 ♠ 953 ♣ 872 ♠ 753
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dbl
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ A83 ♠ 765 ♣ Q1884 ♠ 852
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ J1063 ♠ Q55 ♣ KQ83 ♠ K76
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ AK1094 ♠ 832 ♣ AK19
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 73 ♠ AKQ62 ♠ K94 ♠ 854
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 73 ♠ AKQ632 ♠ K6 ♠ 854
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 73 ♠ AKQ632 ♠ K6 ♠ 854
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.8—Look for answers on Monday.
What do you bid now?

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 4-3



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

ETHAL

HALCK

RAZDAH

WUNTAL

NEEDS TO KNOW YOUR ZODIACAL SIGN BEFORE SHE TELLS YOU THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: WHAT TO

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FLUID HEDGE TURKEY POLITE

Answer: What position does a monster play on the hockey team? "GHOUL-IE"

Romanians ward off

Turkish fans at border

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania has ordered 3,000 extra police and soldiers to watch over angry Turkish fans who arrived for Wednesday's European Cup semi-final tie to learn they had no tickets.

Organisers said only 120 of the 1,200 Turkish fans who reached the Romanian capital — hundreds were turned back at the border — would be given tickets for the match between Steaua Bucharest and Galatasaray of Turkey.

Galatasaray officials said in Istanbul that Romania had allocated 1,500 tickets to fans from Turkey when 10,000 wanted to support the first Turkish club to reach the semi-finals of the European Cup.

The Romanian Football Federation said it had received over 190,000 requests for tickets after it had already announced that all seats for the 30,000 capacity stadium had been sold out.

Tickets were changing hands on the black market Tuesday for 10,000 lei (\$1,100), about four times the average monthly salary in Romania.

Galatasaray striker Tanju Colak, 26, winner of last year's Golden Boot Award who has scored 19 goals in the Turkish championship this season so far and six in this season's European Cup, gave his team a 40-60 chance to reach the final.

"It will be very tough and an exceptional achievement if we do not lose heavily on Wednesday," he said. "But we might still have a chance to turn things around at home."

"We are 50 per cent stronger when we play in front of our own fans. But we are already satisfied with reaching the semi-finals and we can play relaxed." In Istanbul Turkish newspapers estimated 500 vehicles were turned back at the Romanian border.

Sweden snatch 5-0 table tennis win

20-year Chinese reign ended

DORTMUND, West Germany (Agencies) — Sweden shocked defending titlists China 5-0 late Tuesday, winning the men's team title at the world table tennis championships.

Sweden's victory came despite a 15-minute disruption in the fourth match when China's two-time world champion, Jiang Jialiang, complained about a call against him and refused to continue until the umpire was changed. He got his way but still

lost to Jan-Ove Waldner, ranked no. 2 in the world.

By that time Sweden had the match well in hand with European champion Mikael Appelgren, and Jorgen Persson, no. 6 in the world, joining Waldner. Sweden took the crown after

losing to the Chinese the last three times at the world championships.

The last time the Chinese lost a men's title was in 1979. The Chinese women won the team title Monday for the eighth straight time.

At the 1987 world championships, China took six of the seven titles, losing only the women's doubles.

But the Swedes denied the Chinese the men's crown in the

A French comedy of errors ...

PARIS (R) — France's most popular current farce may still lack a title but the script looks promising enough to be considered for a run at Paris's Opera Comique.

A largely bewildered audience of soccer fans is avidly following the bizarre daily developments of a saga variously known as the Tigana case, the Bez-Tapie affair or, more prosaically, the French Football Crisis.

The plot, intrinsically somewhat thin, has been more or less submerged in a stream of accusations, insults, threats of legal action, resignations, appeals reversals of previous decisions and even an intervention by the sports minister himself.

To begin to understand what it is all about, you must first study the programme notes on the leading characters.

They are — not strictly in order of appearance — a black soccer professional, played by Jean Tigana, a socialist millionaire entrepreneur, played by Bernard Tapie, and a right-wing politician, club boss and would-be saviour of French football whose part will be taken by Claude Bez.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Nit-picking may be the sport of the day. You give a little and receive a little, yet things do not gel and come together as planned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You find yourself in a conflict of interest. Appointments and organized routines suffer from poor scheduling.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Nit-picking may be the sport of the day. You give a little and receive a little, yet things do not gel and come together as planned.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep within the limits of your budget and give respectful, careful attention to financial matters. Irritating situations test your patience.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Misguided advice comes from someone who does not understand your position. Playful associates ask you to join in some fun.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) There is no way to control shifting circumstance. Let matters run their own course, and keep your cool.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A simple problem can be exaggerated until the emotional boil goes off. Defuse the situation with a liberal dose of Leo humor and sunshine.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your social life is a bit of a mess.

The action takes place in France during the spring of 1989.

Bez, president of French first division soccer club Bordeaux and easily recognised by his large droopy moustache, has recently persuaded arch-enemy Tapie, boss of the Marseille team, to lend him disgraced player Eric Cantona until the end of the season.

Transfers are banned in France after the mid-winter break but Bez has taken advantage of a new rule allowing clubs a dispensation if a regular first-team player is seriously injured. Cantona, who had been suspended by Marseille for throwing his shirt at a referee in a charity game, takes the place of injured Bordeaux midfielder Bernard Genghini.

The curtain rises for act 1. The suave and well-groomed Tapie calls on Bez to return the favour as his Senegalese forward Abdoulaye Diallo has been badly hurt in a cup match. The two agree that experienced international midfielder Tigana, 33, will be loaned to title-chasing Marseille.

To maintain the suspense, the audience is not told why political

"French football... will reduce people who love the game to tears. Recent developments are less and less comic and more and more tragic."

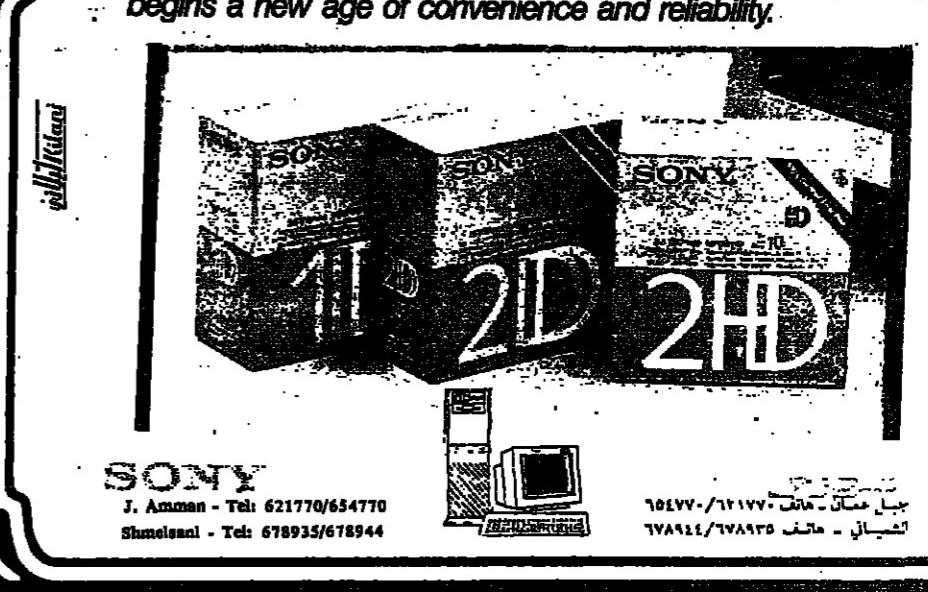
set to run and run despite a daily panning by the critics.

The sports paper L'Equipe, in its review, said: "French football is in the process of turning from a grotesque situation to a sadness which will reduce people who love the game to tears. Recent developments are less and less comic and more and more tragic."

China have lost only two men's team finals since 1971 and have defeated the Swedes in the last three.

SONY

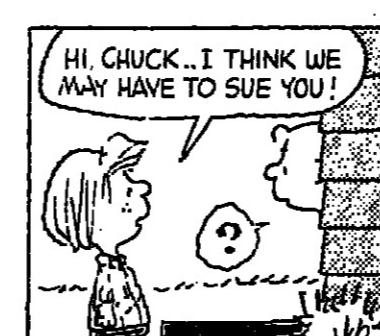
The 3.5" Micro Floppydisk, invented by Sony, begins a new age of convenience and reliability.



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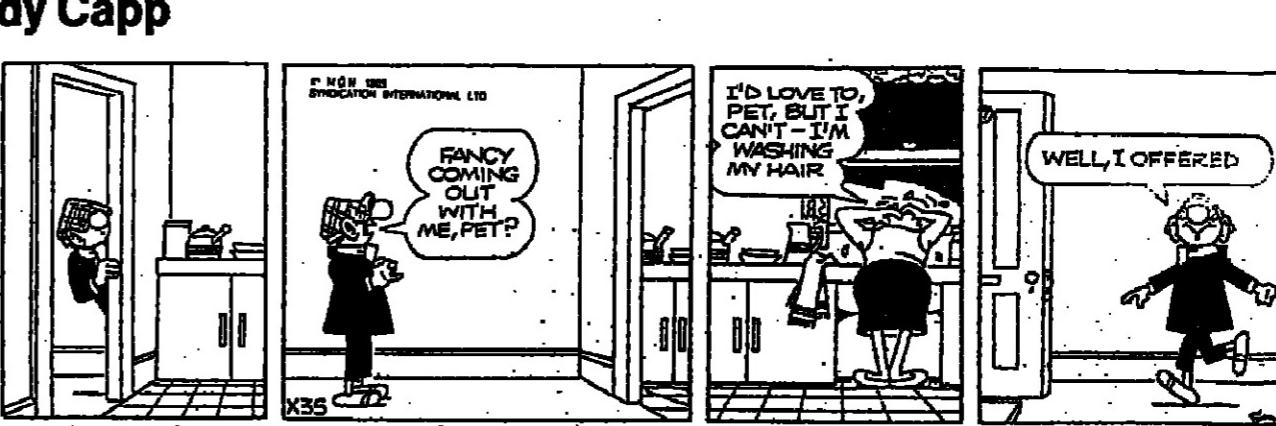
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

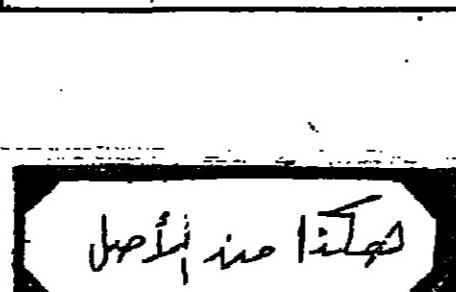


Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword

by Roger Coburn



Poland, Solidarity sign historic pact

WARSAW (R) — The Polish government and opposition signed agreements Wednesday on unprecedented reforms that will end the communist party's monopoly of power.

The signing took place at the final session of marathon government-opposition talks that brought agreement on legalising the banned Solidarity union and injecting an element of democracy into the nation's political institutions.

"We are entering a new stage on the road to democracy but we still have a long way to go," Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said as he entered the meeting in an 18th century Warsaw palace.

The reforms are designed to pull Poland out of economic and political crisis.

They will give the opposition a role in parliament. Many opposition members were imprisoned

under martial law which General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed in 1981 to suppress Solidarity.

Solidarity is expected to obtain legal registration later this month for the first time since 1981 and many of its leaders are likely to enter parliament in June under an electoral pact with the government.

The union's leadership overcame last-minute hesitation and signed the package despite failing to win an all-party agreement on wage indexation to compensate for soaring inflation.

The official OPZZ unions pulled out of the agreement earlier and Solidarity accused them of acting for Communist Party hard-

liners in a bid to torpedo the reforms.

Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz had said Tuesday the hardliners were behind a refusal by the communist-led OPZZ unions to accept a compromise deal thrashed out at eight weeks of talks to create an index tying wage rises to inflation.

"There is an obvious political calculation of a certain tendency within the party to break up the talks," Onyszkiewicz told a news conference.

In exchange, Solidarity has agreed to discourage strikes and try to hold down popular unrest while the authorities tackle inflation, shortages and economic backwardness and attempt to switch Poland's economy to a market-oriented system.

Government and opposition leaders have warned that growing

economic hardship could bring popular unrest which might upset the deal they have worked out to save Poland from upheaval.

The deal includes what Solidarity calls a new "infrastructure of democracy" — more independence for judges, some opposition access to the media, liberalisation of the right to form associations and political clubs and an official pledge to establish local government independence.

The most striking feature is what communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski calls the move towards "socialist parliamentary democracy."

Under a government-opposition electoral pact the opposition will enter the Sejm (lower house) in June for the first time with a 35 per cent share of the seats.

The communists have simultaneously agreed to give up their 53 per cent majority in the Sejm.



Lech Walesa

Political sources say they will accept 38 per cent of the seats although their coalition with allied groups will have a 65 per cent majority.

Equally striking is a constitutional reform creating a 100-member Senate (upper house) which will be the East Bloc's first democratically-elected parliamentary institution.

Soviet seats still undecided

MOSCOW (R) — Results from the Soviet parliamentary elections last month show 274 seats still undecided, with a second round of voting due in the next few weeks, TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Results across the country from the first contested elections in 70 years showed a clear swing of public opinion against the establishment. Many senior Communist Party, government and military figures failed to get elected.

In those seats where more than two candidates stood, with none taking 50 per cent of the poll, a second round will be held April 9 between the two most successful candidates.

In seats where only one or two candidates stood, and still failed to take the necessary 50 per cent, a new election with different candidates will take place May 14.

The results, announced by the Central Election Commission, were also declared invalid in three seats where turnout was below 50 per cent.

TASS did not name the constituencies, and it was not clear if the low turnout was the result of boycotts, held in some districts where only a single candidate stood.

Despite electoral setbacks for some senior figures, TASS said 87.6 of those elected to the New Congress of People's Deputies were party members.

Of the elected deputies 17.1 percent are women, 18.6 percent industrial workers and 11.2 percent peasants.

The Congress, which will in turn elect from its members a New Supreme Soviet or parliament with real executive powers in contrast to its rubber-stamp predecessor, must convene by May 26, two months after the election.

Defiant Nujoma refuses to pull out

HARARE (R) — South West Africa's People's Organisation (SWAPO) President Sam Nujoma refused Wednesday to withdraw his guerrilla fighters from northern Namibia, where nearly 200 have been killed in five days of fighting with South African forces.

Nujoma accused the United Nations peacekeeping troops of negligence and South Africa of trying to sabotage Namibia's planned independence from Pretoria.

He told reporters who asked if he would withdraw his guerrillas at United Nations' request: "We have been fighting in Namibia for 23 years... it is an insult to our intelligence."

He again denied that SWAPO fighters had crossed into Namibia from Angola, a South African charge largely accepted by the U.N.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha Tuesday delivered an ultimatum to the United Nations to curb SWAPO, or he would halt Namibia's countdown to independence unless the U.N. acted "within hours."

Nujoma said U.N. reports backing up the charge of cross-border infiltration "are based on information extracted from sick people in bed" — a reference to the questioning of wounded SWAPO guerrillas.

"This claim by South Africa that SWAPO crossed April 1 is a lie," he said.

Asked why he believed SWAPO guerrillas were allowed to be in northern Namibia, he said U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 categorically stated that both South African troops and SWAPO forces would be confined to bases April 1 by UNTAG, the U.N.'s monitoring force.

"I was one of those who negotiated

that this plan in 1977 and 1978," he said. Resolution 435 is the blueprint for Namibia's U.N.-supervised transition from April 1 to democracy and independence.

He acknowledged that under Geneva protocols signed by South Africa, Angola and Cuba last year, SWAPO forces inside Angola were to be withdrawn north of the 16th parallel, 160 kilometres from the border.

"But I wanted to stick to 435," he said.

Asked where SWAPO had bases in northern Namibia, he replied: "A guerrilla fighter does not have a base."

He said it should have been up to the U.N. forces to allocate places for the guerrillas to assemble in safety and be given food and water.

He accused U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of negligence in failing to have sufficient UNTAG forces deployed by April 1.

He said he still had faith in the U.N. but replied "no comment" when asked if he wanted the dismissal of its special representative in Windhoek, Martin Antunes.

Nujoma said he did not know how much progress had been achieved in talks in Luanda about a ceasefire.

He shrugged off South Africa's threat to suspend the independence process: "As far as our freedom is concerned there will be no compromise," he said.

He repeated a call made to ambassadors of the five Security Council permanent members to meet and authorise an immediate increase in the size of UNTAG to 7,500 men.

Nujoma disclosed that he had asked the five powers to supply planes to fly more U.N. troops into Namibia.

COLUMN 8

Honest mayor fines himself

PARSIPPANY, New Jersey (AP) — When Mayor Frank Priore learned recently that his driver's licence expired in 1987, he did more than rush to renew it. He suspended himself for one day without pay. "I think that was the fairest thing I could do with myself," Priore said Wednesday. Priore said he didn't realise he had been driving illegally until he was contacted by a reporter.

As head of the city's police department, he said he had to write him a ticket. "He was kind of shocked," Priore said. "He said, 'I can't give you a ticket,' and I said, 'You're being ordered to give me a ticket.'" Priore said he decided not to be lenient on himself. A police officer driving with an expired licence would be suspended for a day without pay, so he said he decided he should face the same penalty. He will work through the one-day suspension, but will remove \$231 from his pay, Priore said, adding that the ticket cost \$20. Priore said he decided not to send himself to jail because he did not deliberately let the licence expire. He said the notice to renew probably was sent to his former address.

'Charlot's Year' begins

CORSIER-SUR-VEVEY, Switzerland (AP) — "Charlot's Year" has begun at this wine-growing village as it prepares to honour Charlie Chaplin on the 100th anniversary of his birth with a string of festivities. "Charlot" is the name French-speaking fans gave the world-famous comedian, who died here Christmas Day 1977 after spending a quarter of a century at Corsier. Festivities officially will begin in Vevey, the Lake Geneva town just below hillside Corsier, on April 16, the day Chaplin was born in London in 1889. Swiss President Jean-Pascal Delanouay is scheduled to attend a ceremony naming a "Square Chaplin," which already features a near-lifesize statue of his movie character with trademark bowler hat, monocle and walking stick. Chaplin, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1975, and his wife, Oona, often strolled along the lake nearby. Lady Oona continues to reside at the Manoir de Ban, the 18th-century Manor above Corsier that Chaplin bought in 1953. A special show opening April 29 and running through summer will feature photos, documents and other exhibits focusing on the time Chaplin spent in the region.

'Dog could help sniff out cancer'

LONDON (R) — A woman whose life was probably saved by her dog's keen sense of smell has prompted British doctors to consider using dogs to help them diagnose cancer. In the latest edition of the Lancet Medical Journal, doctors at King's College Hospital in London said a woman was alerted to a cancerous mole on her leg after her mongrel spent several minutes each day sniffing at it. Eventually the dog — a cross between a Collie and a Doberman — bit off the lesion, prompting the woman to see a doctor two years ago. He diagnosed cancer. "This dog may have saved her owner's life by prompting her to seek treatment when the lesion was still at a thin and curable stage," the article said.

While Castro, speaking to his parliament before the Soviet leader, attacked U.S. "imperialists" behaviour around the world, although in terms milder than those he uses to a purely home audience, Gorbachev struck a more moderate note.

He called on other developed countries to support proposals he made at the United Nations last December for a 30-year or longer moratorium on Third World financial debts, saying it would "help get the blood vessels of the world economy moving again."

ETA ends truce; Spain still hopeful

MARDID (R) — Basque separatist guerrillas say their three-month-old truce is over, but the Spanish government retains some hope they will not resume attacks and peace talks can go on.

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) said in a communiqué Tuesday it was ending the truce because the government had not honoured a pledge to negotiate a political settlement in return for an extended ceasefire.

Security forces were on alert to try to prevent guerrillas crossing into Spain from hideouts in France and Andorra. Ministry sources said prominent politicians and businessmen had been warned against a possible kidnapping.

The guerrillas said they would resume the talks only if the government acknowledged what they said was agreed in Algiers — that the talks were working towards a negotiated settlement on the group's political demands.

Commenting on the communiqué, Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said hopes that dialogue could continue had to be preserved up to the last moment.

"The government has to be extremely cautious about the last moment as what is at stake is very important," he said. "I don't want to endanger what's at stake by saying anything imprudent."

"I'm all the more the more cau-

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER	
AMSTERDAM	03	37	06	43 Cloudy
ATHENS	11	52	22	72 Cloudy
BRAZIL	15	68	24	75 Clear
BANGKOK	26	79	35	95 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	13	55	22	82 Clear
CARIO	14	57	30	86 Clear
CHICAGO	09	42	16	60 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	34	09	39 Clear
FRANKFURT	03	37	09	46 Rain
GENEVA	07	45	08	48 Cloudy
HONG KONG	20	68	21	70 Rain
ISTANBUL	11	52	21	70 Clear
LAOS	01	34	05	43 Rain
LOS ANGELES	19	75	35	100 Clear
MADRID	14	54	10	85 Clear
MECCA	19	65	25	95 Cloudy
MIAMI	21	69	25	79 Cloudy
MONTRAL	04	38	09	46 Rain
MOSCOW	05	23	02	36 Clear
NEWDELI	13	56	31	86 Clear
NEW YORK	07	45	19	67 Rain
PARIS	02	36	07	45 Rain
ROME	11	51	24	75 Rain
TOKYO	09	48	19	55 Cloudy
VIENNA	08	43	15	59 Cloudy

World refugee figure rises

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of refugees who have fled their native lands rose by 1.1 million last year to 14.4 million, mostly because of civil wars in east Africa, the U.S. committee for refugees reported up to September if a political

settlement could be reached.

Wednesday's statement indicated the pullout would go ahead even without a settlement. It said the Kampuchean reserved the right to ask for foreign assistance if anti-government guerrillas threatened the Vietnamese-backed administration.

"Vietnam will withdraw from Kampuchea by the end of September 1989," said the statement, read to reporters by Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen. "The total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces and the cessation of all foreign interference and all military aid will put an end to the civil war and stimulate the Kampuchean parties to settle the internal aspects of the Kampuchean question before September 1989 on the basis of national reconciliation."

"Only the Kampuchean people have the right to dismantle" the government through elections, he said.

Ethiopia when a long-simmering revolt flared up last summer in Somalia. About 600,000 have been displaced within Somalia, which has a population of about eight million.

— Almost 250,000 Mozambicans who fled a 14-year-old revolt against their communist government by the RENAMO guerrilla movement. The committee says 1,147,000 Mozambicans have now gone to other countries and two million of the country's 15 million people have been violently uprooted within its borders.

— More than 150,000 refugees east to Ethiopia because rebel fighting against the government of the Sudan. They brought the total of Sudanese there to 350,000. About two million people are reported to have lost their homes.

The largest new groups described in the annual report made public this week were: — 335,000 who fled to

figures. They live mostly in Pakistan and Iran.

Palestinians — 2.3 million — make up the second largest group. Ethiopia, to which 700,000 refugees have fled, has seen about 2.1 million of its own people flee abroad.

Most of the Afghans have fled in the last eight or nine years. Some Palestinians left more than 40 years ago when Israel became a state, and their children and grandchildren are considered refugees.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Congress last month that he is planning to ask for another \$100 million this year for refugees, in addition to the \$12 million already available. For the following year, the administration of President George Bush is asking a cut in spending.

Baker said his department will complete a review of its refugee programmes soon after May 1.

The guerrillas said they would resume the talks only if the government acknowledged what they said was agreed in Algiers — that the talks were working towards a negotiated settlement on the group's political demands.